

## **APPENDIX E**

### **THE GERMAN ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (*STRASSENVERKEHRSORDNUNG*)**

#### **E-1. GENERAL**

This appendix is a translation of the German Road Traffic Ordinance (*Strassenverkehrsordnung*) of 16 November 1970 (BGBl. I, p. 1565) with subsequent amendments through 11 December 2000.

#### **E-2. RELATED LAWS**

Paragraph D-2 (this pub) of the German Road Traffic Law lists related laws.

#### **E-3. TITLES**

In the translation of the Road Traffic Ordinance, a title for each part and section has been inserted describing its content for the convenience of the users of this appendix. These titles are not part of the German law.

#### **E-4. TECHNICAL TERMS**

a. When the precise translation of technical terms was not possible, the original German text has been inserted in parentheses following the appropriate English translation.

b. A basic concept of German law that has no equivalent in U.S. law is that of the “Halter” of a vehicle. The word “Halter” has been translated as “holder.” It has been defined by German courts as the person who has the use of the vehicle for his own account and has the control over it that such use presupposes. It is not necessarily the owner, the registrant, or the person who has physical possession of it. From this definition, it is evident that the status of “holder” is determined by the individual facts in a particular case. When application of this term is of importance, interested personnel should consult a lawyer conversant with German law.

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## **CONTENTS**

### **PART I**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Basic Rules
2. Use of Roads by Vehicles
3. Speed
4. Distance
5. Passing
6. Driving Past
7. Use of Traffic Lanes by Motor Vehicles
8. Right-of-Way
- 9a. Traffic Circle
9. Turning, Turning Around, and Backing Up
10. Entering and Pulling Away
11. Special Traffic Situations
12. Stopping and Parking
13. Parking Time Monitoring Devices
14. Duty To Exercise Care When Entering and Alighting
15. Vehicles Immobilized on the Road
- 15a Towing of Vehicles
16. Warning Signs
17. Lighting
18. Autobahns and Roads Reserved for Motor Vehicles
19. Railroad Crossings
20. Public Means of Transportation and School Buses
21. Transportation of Persons
- 21a Safety Belts, Protective Helmets
22. Load
23. Other Duties of the Driver of a Vehicle
24. Specific Types of Means of Conveyance
25. Pedestrians

- 26. Pedestrian Crosswalks
- 27. Formations
- 28. Animals
- 29. Excessive Use of the Road
- 30. Environmental Protection and Prohibition To Drive on Sundays
- 31. Sports and Games
- 32. Obstructions to Traffic
- 33. Impairment of Traffic
- 34. Accidents
- 35. Special Privileges

## **PART II**

### **SIGNS AND TRAFFIC DEVICES**

- 36. Signals and Instructions by Police Officials
- 37. Changing and Constant Light Signals and Green Arrows
- 38. Blue and Yellow Flashing Lights
- 39. Traffic Signs
- 40. Warning Signs (*Gefahrzeichen*)
- 41. Regulatory Signs (*Vorschriftzeichen*)
- 42. Guiding Signs (*Richtzeichen*)
- 43. Traffic Devices

## **PART III**

### **IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE FINES (*BUSSGELD*) REGULATIONS, AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

- 44. Jurisdiction Over the Subject Matter
- 45. Traffic Signs and Traffic Devices
- 46. Grants of Exceptions and Authorizations
- 47. Territorial Jurisdiction
- 48. Traffic Education
- 49. Traffic Offenses
- 50. Special Regulations for the Isle of Helgoland
- 51. Special Regulation Concerning Costs
- 52. Compensation for the Use of Public Traffic Areas
- 53. Entry Into Force

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## **PART I**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 1. BASIC RULES**

(1) The participation in public road traffic constantly requires caution and mutual consideration.

(2) Every person participating in public road traffic must so conduct himself that no other person is endangered or injured, or is impeded or inconvenienced more than is unavoidable under the circumstances.

#### **SECTION 2. USE OF ROADS BY VEHICLES**

(1) Vehicles must use the roadway; on roads with two lanes they must use the lane to the right. Shoulders are not part of the roadway.

(2) Drivers must keep to the right-hand side of the roadway as far as possible, not only in cases of oncoming traffic, but also when being passed, at summits, in curves, or when sight is obstructed.

(3) Vehicles driving in the same roadway as a rail line must allow rail vehicles to pass if possible.

(3a) If, due to fog, snowfall or rain the visibility is less than 50 m, operators of motor vehicles carrying hazardous cargoes subject to marking must conduct themselves in such a way that a danger to others is precluded; if necessary, they must seek the nearest suitable parking area. The same applies in case of hard-packed snow and ice.

(4) Cyclists must ride in file; they may ride abreast only if traffic is not impeded thereby. They must use the bicycle paths if the respective traveling direction is marked with sign 237, 240 or 241. They may use other right hand bicycle paths. They may use right shoulders if no cycle tracks are available and pedestrians are not impeded. This also applies to motorbikes that are moved by pedaling.

(5) Children under 8 years of age operating bicycles must use footpaths; children at the age between 8 and 10 may use footpaths. Special consideration is to be shown for pedestrians. When crossing a roadway they must get off the bicycle.

### **SECTION 3. SPEED**

(1) The driver of a vehicle may drive only at a speed that allows him to control his vehicle constantly. He must adjust his speed in particular to the road, traffic, sight, and weather conditions, as well as to his personal abilities and to the qualities of vehicle and load. If the visibility is less than 50 meters due to fog, snowfall, or rain, he may not exceed 50 kilometers per hour, unless an even lower speed is required. He may drive only at a speed that allows him to stop within a distance where the view is not obstructed. However, on roadways which are so narrow that oncoming vehicles may be endangered, he must slow down so that he can stop at least within half of the distance of his unobstructed view.

(2) Without compelling reason motor vehicles may not drive so slowly that they impede the flow of traffic.

(2a) Drivers of motor vehicles must so conduct towards children, handicapped and elderly persons, -particularly by reducing the driving speed and being prepared to apply the brakes-, that these traffic participants are not exposed to any danger.

(3) The maximum speed permitted even under the most favorable circumstances is--

1. For all vehicles in built-up areas 50 km per hour.

2. Outside built-up areas.

a. For motor vehicles with an authorized total weight of more than 3.5 tons to 7.5 tons with the exception of passenger cars, for passenger cars with trailers, and trucks up to an authorized total weight of 3.5 tons with trailer, and for motor buses also with luggage trailer 80 km per hour.

b. For motor vehicles with an authorized total weight in excess of 7.5 tons, for all motor vehicles with trailers, with the exception of passenger cars as well as trucks not exceeding an authorized total weight of 2.8 tons, and for busses with more passengers, than can be accommodated, 60 km per hour.

c. For passenger cars as well as for other motor vehicles with an authorized total weight of up to 3.5 tons, 100 km per hour.

This speed restriction does not apply to autobahns (sign 330) and other roads with lanes in one direction which are separated by centerlines or other constructional equipment. It does not apply to roads which have at least two lanes in a direction marked by lane demarcations (sign 295) or by traffic lane indicating lines (sign 340).

(4) The authorized maximum speed for motor vehicles with snow chains, even under the most favorable circumstances, is 50 km per hour.

### **SECTION 4. DISTANCE**

(1) The distance from a preceding vehicle must, as a rule, be large enough to allow stopping behind this vehicle even if the brakes are suddenly applied. The preceding driver may not suddenly apply the brakes without a compelling reason.

(2) Motor vehicles to which a special speed limit applies, as well as a combination of vehicles longer than 7m, must keep such a distance from the preceding motor vehicle, outside built-up areas, that a passing motor vehicle can pull in. This does not apply,

1. If they pull out for the purpose of passing and have indicated their intention to do so.
2. If there is more than one lane in the driving direction.
3. On portions where passing is prohibited.

(3) Trucks with an authorized total weight over 3.5 tons and motorbuses must maintain a minimum distance of 50 m from preceding vehicles on the autobahn when their speed exceeds 50 km/h.

## **SECTION 5. PASSING**

(1) Passing must be done on the left.

(2) A driver may pass only if he can clearly see that any obstruction of oncoming traffic is precluded during the entire passing process. Vehicles may pass each other only when the speed of the passing vehicle is substantially higher than the speed of the vehicle to be passed.

(3) Passing is not permitted--

1. If the traffic situation is not clear, or
2. If prohibited by traffic signs (signs 276, 277).

(3a) Notwithstanding other prohibitions to pass, operators of vehicles with an authorized total weight of more than 7.5 tons may not pass if the visibility is less than 50 meters due to fog, snowfall, or rain.

(4) Anyone who intends to pull out to pass must so conduct himself that a danger to the traffic that follows is precluded. When passing, a sufficient lateral interval to other traffic participants must be kept, particularly to pedestrians and cyclists. The passing vehicle must pull in to the right again as soon as possible. The vehicle that is passed must not be impeded.

(4a) Pulling out to pass and pulling back again must be clearly indicated in due time; for this purpose the direction indicators are to be used.

(5) Outside built-up areas passing may be indicated by short blasts on the horn or by blinking light signals. If a blinking signal is given with the high beams, drivers of oncoming vehicles must not be blinded.

(6) A vehicle that is passed must not increase its speed. The driver of a vehicle driving at a slower speed must reduce his speed at a suitable place and wait, if necessary, to allow several immediately following vehicles to pass if passing is only possible by such a method. Shoulders may also be used; this does not apply to autobahns.

(7) Anyone who indicates his intention to turn to the left and is properly in a position to turn left, shall be passed to the right. Rail vehicles must be passed to the right. Only those who are unable to do so because the rails are too far to the right may pass to the left. Where the traffic is traveling in one direction on the roadway, rail vehicles may also be passed to the left.

(8) If sufficient space is available, bicyclists and operators of motorbikes who are waiting in the right lane may pass vehicles on the right at a moderate speed and with special caution.

## **SECTION 6. DRIVING PAST**

Whoever wants to drive past a stopped vehicle, a barrier, or any other obstacle on the roadway to the left, must allow oncoming traffic to drive through. If he must pull out, he should observe the traffic that follows and indicate his intention to pull out or to pull in again in the same way as if he were passing.

## **SECTION 7. USE OF TRAFFIC LANES BY MOTOR VEHICLES**

(1) On roads with several traffic lanes in one direction, vehicles may deviate from the rule to keep to the right if traffic density justifies (sec 2, para 2) such action. A lane of traffic is a segment of a road which a vehicle with more than two wheels needs for unobstructed driving.

(2) If traffic is heavy such that a line of cars has developed on the lanes in one direction, faster driving on the right than on the left is permitted.

(2a) If on the one-direction road a line of cars is waiting or slowly moving in the left lane, they may be passed on the right by vehicles at a slightly higher speed and with utmost caution.

(3) Within built-up areas -except on autobahns (sign 330)- motor vehicles with an authorized total weight up to 3.5 tons may freely choose lanes on roads which have more than one lane in a direction (sign 296 or 340). This applies even if the conditions of paragraph (1), first sentence do not exist. When those conditions exist, faster driving on the right is permitted.

(4) If on roads with more than one lane in the same direction the use of a lane is not possible or in the case of one lane ending, the vehicles which are prevented from continuing shall be permitted to change over to the neighboring lane directly where the road narrows in such a way that every second car in the lane which continues must allow merger of one vehicle in the lane which does not continue (zipper procedure).

(5) In all cases changing of lanes is only permitted if no danger is thereby created to other traffic participants. Every change of lanes must be clearly indicated in time by using the direction indicators.

## **SECTION 8. RIGHT-OF-WAY**

(1) Anyone coming from the right has the right-of-way at road intersections and junctions. This does not apply--

1. If the right-of-way is specially regulated by traffic signs (205, 206, 301, 306), or
2. To vehicles that enter from a field path or forest road and turn into another road.

(2) Whoever must observe the right-of-way must indicate in time by his driving, especially by moderate speed, that he will wait. He may continue to drive only if he can clearly see that he neither endangers nor substantially impedes the driver who has the right-of-way. If he is unable to see, because his vision of the road is obstructed, he may inch his way into an intersection or junction until he has clear vision. If the driver who has the right-of-way turns into the road where the driver obligated to wait is waiting, the waiting driver may not substantially impede him.

(3) (Deleted)

## **SECTION 9. TURNING, TURNING AROUND, AND BACKING UP**

(1) Anyone who wants to turn to any other direction must clearly indicate his intention in time by using the direction indicators. Whoever wants to turn to the right must drive his vehicle to the right as far as possible; whoever wants to turn to the left must drive to the middle and where the traffic is traveling in one direction on the roadway he must move to the left as far as possible and in time. Whoever wants to turn to the left may drive on rails running parallel to the road only if he does not impede a rail vehicle. Before moving into the correct position and once more before turning, attention should be paid to the traffic that follows; this is not necessary before turning if traffic that follows cannot be possibly endangered.

(2) Bicyclists who would like to turn on the roadway must stay to the right side of motor vehicles that are turning in the same direction if there is sufficient space. Bicyclists who want to turn left need not get into the line. They may cross the roadway behind the intersection or junction from the right edge of the roadway. In doing so they must get off the bicycle if the traffic situation so requires. If there is a cycle path marking it shall be followed.

(3) Whoever intends to turn (across the traffic flow) must allow oncoming vehicles to pass including rail vehicles, bicycles with auxiliary motor and cyclists even if they travel in the same direction on the roadway or at the side of the road. This also applies to scheduled buses and other vehicles using specially marked traffic lanes. The driver who turns must pay special attention to pedestrians, and if necessary, he must wait.

(4) Anyone who wants to turn to the left must allow oncoming vehicles, which want to turn to the right, to turn first. Drivers of oncoming vehicles who both want to turn left must turn in front of each other unless the traffic situation or the design of the intersection requires the vehicles to turn only after they have driven past each other.

(5) When turning into real estate, turning around, and backing up, the driver must ensure that other road users cannot possibly be endangered; if necessary, he should allow himself to be directed.

## **SECTION 9A. TRAFFIC CIRCLE**

(1) If at the junction of a traffic circle sign 215 (Traffic Circle) is placed under sign 205 (Yield Right-of-Way) the traffic in the circle lane has priority. When entering such a traffic circle use of the direction indicator is not permitted. Inside the traffic circle it is prohibited to stop on the roadway.

(2) The center island of the traffic circle may not be used by vehicles. This does not apply to vehicles which due to their dimensions otherwise would not be able to drive in the traffic circle. Such vehicles may drive over the center island if they do not endanger other road users.

## **SECTION 10. ENTERING AND PULLING AWAY**

Anyone who wants to enter a road from real estate, from a pedestrian zone (signs 242 and 243), from a pedestrian priority area (signs 325, 326), or to turn into the roadway from other parts of the road or over a descending curbstone, or wants to pull away from the curb of the roadway must do this in such a way that a danger to other traffic participants is precluded; if necessary, he should allow himself to be directed. He must clearly indicate his intention in time by using the direction indicators. In situations requiring clarification sign 205 may be erected.

## **SECTION 11. SPECIAL TRAFFIC SITUATIONS**

(1) If there is a traffic jam, no one may drive into the intersection or junction, despite the right-of-way or a green traffic light, if he would have to wait there.

(2) If traffic stops on autobahns or roads outside built-up areas with at least two lanes in each direction, drivers must move to form a free lane in the center of the roadway; or in case of roads with three lanes for each direction, between the left and the center lane to let police and rescue vehicles pass.

(3) A driver who may continue to drive pursuant to the traffic regulations or has priority must waive his right to drive if the traffic situation requires; a person without the right-of-way may not rely on such a waiver unless he has reached an understanding with the driver who has waived his right.

## **SECTION 12. STOPPING AND PARKING**

(1) Stopping is not permitted--

1. At places where the road is narrow and the view is obstructed.
2. In sharp curves.
3. On the accelerating lane and on the decelerating lane.
4. On pedestrian crosswalks as well as 5 m or less in front thereof.
5. On railroad crossings.
6. As far as it is prohibited by the following traffic signs or light signals--
  - a. Prohibition to stop (sign 283).
  - b. Restricted prohibition to stop (sign 286).
  - c. Marking of the lanes (sign 295 b, bb).
  - d. Direction arrows on the roadway (sign 297).
  - e. Marking of limits of stretches where stopping is prohibited (sign 299).
  - f. Red permanent light (sec 37, para 3).

7. At a distance of 10 m or less before light signals and the signs (“Rail Traffic has Priority” (sign 201), “Yield Right-of-Way” (sign 205) and “Stop, Yield Right-of-Way” (sign 206) if the lights or signs are concealed thereby.

8. Before and in officially marked driveways of the fire brigade.

9. At taxi stands (sign 229).

(1a) Taxis are not permitted to stop if they use a traffic lane which is reserved for taxis and scheduled buses, except at bus stops for immediate entering and alighting of passengers.

(2) Anyone who leaves his vehicle or stops longer than 3 minutes is parking.

(3) Parking is not permitted--

1. Before and beyond road intersections and junctions at a distance of 5 m or less from the intersection of the edges of the roadways,

2. If the use of marked parking areas is prevented,

3. In front of entrances to and exits from real estate, and on narrow roadways opposite entrances and exits,

4. 15 m or less before and after bus and streetcar stops (sign 224),

5. (deleted),

6. Before and after railroad warning crosses (sign 201)--

a. 5 m or less within built-up areas (signs 310 and 311),

b. 50 m or less outside built-up areas,

7. On manhole covers and other covers where parking on sidewalks is permitted by sign 315 or a parking lot marking (sec 41, para (3), no. 7),

8. As far as this is prohibited by the following traffic signs--

a. Priority road (sign 306) outside built-up areas,

b. Marking of the lanes (signs 295a), or marking of one side of the lane (sign 296b),

c. Parking on sidewalks (sign 315), also with supplemental sign,

d. Border marking for parking prohibition (sign 299),

e. Parking lot (sign 314) with a supplemental sign,

9. In front of lowered curbs.

(3a) Regular parking of motor vehicles with an authorized total weight over 7.5t as well as motor vehicle trailers in excess of 2t authorized total weight is prohibited within built-up areas.

1. In areas which are purely or generally residential.

2. In special areas serving recreational purposes.

3. In health resorts.

4. In hospital areas

during the period between 2200 hours and 0600 hours as well as on Sundays and holidays.

This does not apply to parking lots designated as such or to the parking of scheduled buses at terminal stations.

(3b) Parking of motor vehicle trailers without the drawing vehicle is permitted no longer than two weeks. This does not apply to parking lots marked accordingly.

(4) The right shoulder, this also includes parking lines marked along the roadway, shall be used for parking, if it is sufficiently firm, otherwise the vehicle shall drive to the right edge of the roadway. This generally applies also to the driver who wants to stop only; in any case he must remain on the right side of the shoulder or on the right-hand edge of the roadway. If the traffic situation permits, taxis may stop beside other vehicles stopped or parked on the shoulder or at the right-hand edge of the roadway to allow passengers to enter or alight. If there are rails on the right side or the street is one way (sign 220), he may stop and park on the left side. Stopping is prohibited in the driving area of railway vehicles.

(4a) If parking on the sidewalk is permitted, only the right sidewalk, in one-way streets the right or left sidewalk shall be used.

(4b) (deleted)

(5) Whoever reaches a parking space first has priority; such priority continues to exist when the authorized person is driving past the parking space to back up, or if he is making additional driving movements to turn into the parking space. Sentence 1 applies accordingly to motor vehicle drivers who are waiting at a parking space becoming available.

(6) Parking should be done in a way that parking space is conserved; this also applies in general to vehicles which stop.

### **SECTION 13. PARKING TIME MONITORING DEVICES**

(1) Parking at parking meters during the authorized parking time is permitted only while the meter is running, and at automatic parking ticket dispensers only if in possession of a parking ticket which must be displayed legibly on or in the vehicle. If a parking meter or an automatic parking ticket dispenser is out of order parking is permitted only up to the maximum parking time indicated. In this case the parking disk shall be used. Paragraph (2), first sentence, number 2). The parking time may be restricted to certain hours or days.

(2) If the use of a parking disk (picture 291) is prescribed for a zone of "restricted no stopping" (signs 290 and 292) or by a supplemental sign at signs 314 or 315, parking is permitted only-

1. For the time indicated on the supplemental sign, and

2. If the vehicle has a parking disk that can be clearly read from outside and if the indicator of the disk is pointing to the marking for that half hour which follows the time of parking.

Where parking meters or automatic parking ticket dispensers are set up in a "Restricted No Stopping" zone, the regulations in respect to the former shall apply. Prohibitions to stop or park indicated in section 12 remain unaffected.

(3) Parking time monitoring devices need not be operated--

1. For the purpose of entering and alighting.

2. For the purpose of loading and unloading.

### **SECTION 14. DUTY TO EXERCISE CARE WHEN ENTERING AND ALIGHTING**

(1) Anyone who enters or alights must so conduct him-self that other traffic participants are not endangered.

(2) If the driver leaves his vehicle, he shall take the necessary measures to avoid accidents and disturbances of traffic. Motor vehicles shall also be secured against unauthorized use.

## **SECTION 15. VEHICLES IMMOBILIZED ON THE ROAD**

If a vehicle with more than two wheels is immobilized at a place where it cannot be recognized as a motionless obstacle in time, a warning blinking light shall be switched on immediately. Then a warning sign conspicuously visible shall be set up at a sufficient distance, i.e., in case of fast traffic at a distance of about 100 m; prescribed safety devices such as warning triangles shall be used. In addition, the provisions concerning the lighting of stopped vehicles are applicable.

### **SECTION 15A. TOWING OF VEHICLES**

- (1) When a vehicle which became disabled on the autobahn is towed off, the autobahn (sign 330) must be left at the next exit.
- (2) When a vehicle disabled on a street other than the autobahn is towed off, entering the autobahn is prohibited.
- (3) While the vehicle is towed off the warning blinking lights of both vehicles must be switched on.
- (4) Motorcycles may not be towed off.

## **SECTION 16. WARNING SIGNS**

- (1) Sound and light signals may be given only by a driver who--

1. Passes another vehicle outside built-up areas (sec 5, para (5)), or
2. Sees himself or others to be in danger.

(2) The driver of a scheduled bus or of a marked school bus shall switch on the warning blinking lights when approaching a bus stop and while passengers enter or alight, if such conduct is ordered by the road traffic authority for certain bus stops. Except in the case of vehicles being immobilized on the road (sec 15) and being towed off (sec 15a), warning blinking light may be switched on only by a person who endangers other persons with his vehicle or who wants to warn others of dangers, for example when approaching a traffic jam or in case of extremely low speed on autobahns and other roads where vehicles normally drive at a high speed.

- (3) Sound signals may not consist of a sequence of different high sounds.

## **SECTION 17. LIGHTING**

(1) From the onset of darkness, during darkness, or if visibility conditions so require, the lighting devices prescribed shall be used. The lighting devices may neither be covered nor be dirty.

(2) Driving only with parking lights is not permitted. On roads with sufficient lighting throughout, driving with high beams is not permitted. The lights must be dimmed in time if a vehicle is approaching, if a vehicle precedes at a short distance, or if safety of traffic on or beside the road so requires. If necessary, speed should be reduced appropriately.

- (2a) Motorcycles must switch on the low beam light also during daytime.

(3) If fog, snowfall, or rain substantially obstructs visibility, lights should be dimmed also during daytime. Fog lamps may be switched on only during such weather conditions. If two fog lamps are switched on, the additional use of the parking lights instead of the low beam light is sufficient. Motorcycles without sidecars may use fog lights only. Fog taillights may be used only if visibility is less than 50 m due to fog.

(4) Stopped vehicles shall be illuminated with their own light sources outside built-up areas. Within built-up areas it is sufficient to illuminate the side of the vehicle that is exposed to the roadway either by parking lights or in any other permissible way; if the streetlights make the vehicle clearly visible at a sufficient distance, such illumination is not necessary. Vehicles with a permissible total weight over 3.5 t and trailers which stop on the roadway, -with the exception of passenger cars- must always be illuminated by their own light source or be made recognizable by other permitted lighting equipment within built-up areas. Vehicles which may be removed from the roadway without any difficulty, such as motorcycles, bicycles with auxiliary motors, bicycles, invalid chairs, one-axle tractors, one-axle trailers, carts or carriages not horse-drawn may not be left there without illumination.

(4a) As far as deviation is made from the general lighting requirements for military vehicles, yellow-red retro-reflecting warning plaques or safety means of equal effectiveness shall be used. Moreover, these means may be utilized in addition to normal lighting on these vehicles.

(5) If pedestrians guide one-axle tractors or working machines by the handles or handcarts, at least one lamp with a non-blinding white light that is clearly recognizable from the front and rear shall be attached to the left side or be carried by hand.

(6) Searchlights may be used for a short time only and not for the purpose of illuminating the roadway.

## **SECTION 18. AUTOBAHNS AND ROADS RESERVED FOR MOTOR VEHICLES**

(1) Autobahns (sign 330) and roads for motor vehicles (*Kraftfahrstraßen*) (sign 331) may be used only by motor vehicles with a maximum speed of more than 60 km per hour due to their type of construction; if trailers are attached, the same provision applies. The vehicle and load together must not be higher than 4 m and not wider than 2.55 m. The width of refrigerated trucks may not exceed 2.6 meters.

(2) Vehicles may enter autobahns only at access roads that are marked (sign 330), and they may enter roads reserved for motor vehicles at intersections or junctions.

(3) Traffic on a thoroughfare has the right-of-way.

(4) Deleted.

(5) On autobahns vehicles may drive faster than 50 km per hour within built-up areas. The maximum speed under most favorable circumstances as well as outside built-up areas on roads reserved for motor vehicles with lanes for one direction which are separated by center strips or other constructions is--

1. 80 km per hour for motor vehicles with an authorized total weight of more than 3.5 tons with the exception of passenger cars, for passenger cars with trailers, trucks with trailers and tractors with trailers, and mobile homes with trailers as well as for buses without trailers or with luggage trailers.

2. 60 km per hour for motorcycles with trailers and self-propelled working machines with trailers, for tractors with two trailers as well as for buses with trailers or passengers for whom seats are not available.

3. 100 km/h for motorbuses without a trailer--

a. Which according to the entry in the vehicle registration certificate are apt to drive at a maximum speed of 100 km per hour.

b. Where the engine output is at least 11 kw/t of the permissible total weight.

c. Where the rear is provided with a "100"-plaque bearing the seal of the registration office.

(6) Whoever is driving on the autobahn with low beam lights need not adjust his speed to the reach of the low beam lights, if--

1. The taillights of the preceding motor vehicle are clearly recognizable and a sufficient distance is maintained between the vehicles.

2. The roadway is recognizable by guiding devices with reflectors, and obstacles thereon are recognizable in time together with other light sources.

(7) Turning around and backing up are prohibited.

(8) Stopping -also on road shoulders- is prohibited.

(9) Pedestrians may not enter the autobahns. They may cross roads reserved for motor vehicles at intersections, at junctions, and at other places provided for this purpose. Any other entry is prohibited.

(10) Leaving the autobahn is allowed only at places that are marked by the exit sign (sign 332) and by the arrow sign (sign 333) or by any one of these signs. The exit from roads reserved for motor vehicles is permitted only at intersections or junctions.

## **SECTION 19. RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

(1) Rail vehicles have priority--

1. At railroad crossings marked by the warning cross (sign 201).

2. At railroad crossings over foot-, field-, forest- or cycle-paths.

3. In harbor and industrial areas if the warning cross with the supplemental sign "harbor area, rail vehicles have priority" or "industrial area, rail vehicles have priority" is erected at the entrances.

Vehicles in road traffic may approach such railroad crossings only at a moderate speed.

(2) Vehicles must wait in front of the warning cross and pedestrians must wait at a secure distance in front of the railroad crossing, if--

1. A rail vehicle approaches.

2. Red blinking light or yellow or red light signals are given.

3. The railway gates are being lowered or are closed.

4. A railway official gives the stop sign.

If a red blinking light has the form of an arrow, only drivers who want to turn in the direction of the arrow must wait. A bell may indicate that the railway gates are being lowered.

(3) In the cases of paragraph (2) no. 2 and no. 3 above, trucks with an authorized total weight exceeding 7.5 tons and a combination of vehicles must wait directly beyond the one-striped signal (sign 162) on roads on which they may and can be passed by vehicles with more than two wheels.

(4) If the railroad crossing, due to road traffic, cannot be crossed expeditiously and without delay, a stop should be made in front of the warning cross.

(5) Whoever uses foot-, field-, forest- or cycle paths must cross accordingly at railroad crossings not marked by a warning cross.

(6) At railroad crossings where rail vehicles have no priority, a stop shall be made at a secure distance if a railroad official gives a stop sign with a white-red-white flag or with a red lamp. If yellow or red light signals are given, section 37, paragraph (2), no. 1 applies accordingly.

(7) The lights of waiting motor vehicles must not blind others.

## **SECTION 20. PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND SCHOOL BUSES**

(1) Scheduled buses, streetcars and marked school buses which stop at stopping places (sign 224) may only be passed with care, also by oncoming traffic.

(2) If passengers enter or alight vehicles may pass to the right only at walking paces and only at such a distance that passengers are not endangered, nor may they be impeded. If necessary, the driver of the vehicle must wait.

(3) Scheduled buses and marked school buses approaching a bus stop (sign 224) with the warning blinking light switched on may not be passed.

(4) Scheduled buses and marked school buses which stop at bus stops (224) with the warning blinking lights switched on may only be passed at walking pace and only at such a distance that passengers are not endangered. Walking pace also applies to oncoming traffic on the same roadway. Passengers may not be impeded. If necessary, the driver of the vehicle must wait.

(5) Scheduled buses and school buses shall be given the opportunity to depart from marked stops. If necessary, other vehicles must wait.

(6) Persons who want to use public transportation must wait on sidewalks, shoulders or a stop island, otherwise at the edge of the roadway.

## **SECTION 21. TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS**

(1) It is forbidden to take along persons--

1. On motorcycles without a special seat.
2. On tractors without a suitable seating accommodation.
3. On a one-axle house trailer or a two-axle house-trailer behind motor vehicles.

(1a) Children under 12 years of age who are smaller than 150 cm may only travel in vehicles on seats for which seatbelts are required if restraining devices for children are used which are officially approved and suitable for the child. This does not apply in buses with an authorized total mass exceeding 3.5 tons. In deviation from sentence 1, children may be transported on back seats without securing them by restraining devices if, due to the securing of other persons, fastening of the restraining devices for children is not possible.

(2) The loading area of a truck may not hold more than 8 persons if they accompany the load, if they have to work on the loading area, or if they are transported to or from their working place by vehicles supplied by their employer. No one may be transported on the loading area of trailers. However, persons may be transported if there is a possibility to sit on the loading area of trailers used for agricultural or forestry purposes. Standing during the ride is prohibited unless this is required for the purpose of accompanying the load or if work must be accomplished on the loading area.

(3) Persons of at least 16 years of age may transport on bicycles children under 7 years, only if special seats are available for the children and if wheel casings or similar protective measures guarantee that the feet of the children cannot be caught in the spokes.

## **SECTION 21A. SAFETY BELTS, PROTECTIVE HELMETS**

(1) Prescribed safety belts must be fastened while driving. This does not apply to--

1. Taxi drivers and drivers of hired cars transporting passengers.
2. Drivers of house-to-house delivery vehicles within the area of delivery.
3. Drivers traveling at a slow speed, such as backing, or driving on parking lots.
4. Rides in motorbuses for which transportation of standing passengers is permitted.
5. Operating personnel in motorbuses and the accompanying personnel of persons needing special care during performance of their services if it requires to leave the seat.
6. Passengers in motorbuses with an authorized total mass of 3.5 tons when leaving their seats for a short period of time.

(2) Drivers of motorcycles and their passengers must wear officially approved protective helmets while driving.

## **SECTION 22. LOAD**

(1) The load as well as tension chains, implements, and other loading equipment must be stowed in compliance with traffic safety and be secured against dropping off and any avoidable noise.

(2) Vehicle and load together must not be higher than 4 m and not wider than 2.55 m. Vehicles that are used for agricultural or forestry purposes may, if they are loaded with agricultural or forestry products or working equipment, not be wider than 3 m, including the load. If they are loaded with agricultural or forestry products they may not be higher than 4 m, including the load. The width of refrigerated trucks may not exceed 2.6 meters.

(3) Up to a height of 2.5 m the load may not project beyond the front of the vehicle and in case of a combination of vehicles, not beyond the towing vehicle. Otherwise the load may project up to 50 cm beyond the front of the vehicle and, in case of a combination of vehicles, up to 50 cm beyond the towing vehicle.

(4) The load may project beyond the rear up to 1.5 m, however, if a load is transported over a distance up to 100 km it may project up to 3 m; distances outside the territorial scope of this ordinance are not considered. Vehicles or a combination of vehicles, including the load, may not be longer than 20.75 m. If the extreme end of the load projects more than 1 m beyond the taillight of the vehicle, it is to be made recognizable at least by--

1. A light red flag not less than 30 x 30 cm held and extended by a crossbar.
2. A light red sign of the same size hung up and swinging diagonally to the driving direction.
3. A vertically attached cylindric fixture of the same color and height with a diameter of at least 35 cm.

These means of safety must not be mounted higher than 1.5 m above the roadway. If necessary (sec 17, para (1)) at least one lamp with a red light shall be attached at the same place, and in addition a red taillight not higher than 90 cm.

(5) If the load at the sides projects more than 40 cm beyond the lights of the vehicle, or in case of motor vehicles, beyond the extreme edge of the light emitting surface of the rim of the clearance lights or taillights, the load shall be made recognizable, if necessary (sec 17, para (1)), i.e., at the sides at least 40 cm from its edge and at most 1.5 m above the road to the front by a lamp with a white light and to the rear by a lamp with red light. Individual bars or poles, horizontally placed sheets, and other objects that cannot be easily recognized must not project at the sides.

## **SECTION 23. OTHER DUTIES OF THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE**

(1) The driver of a vehicle is responsible to ensure that his view and hearing are not impaired by the passengers in the vehicle, animals, load, equipment, or condition of the vehicle. He must make sure that the vehicle, combination of vehicles, the team of animals, as well as the load and the passengers are in accordance with regulations and that the traffic safety of the vehicle is not impaired because of the load or the passengers. He also must take care that the prescribed license plates are always clearly legible. Prescribed lighting devices must also be available and be ready for operation during daytime for motor vehicles and bicycles; in other cases only if it is expected that the vehicle would remain in traffic when lighting is required (sec 17, para (1)).

(1a) The vehicle operator is prohibited from using a mobile phone or car phone if he picks up or holds the receiver of the car phone for that purpose. This does not apply if the vehicle stops and if the motor of the vehicle is turned off.

(2) The driver of the vehicle must remove his vehicle, a combination of vehicles, or team of animals from traffic by the shortest route if deficiencies en route considerably affecting traffic safety are not immediately correctable. However, motorcycles and bicycles may be pushed in such a situation.

(3) Bicyclists and drivers of motorcycles must not hold on to other vehicles. They may not ride free handed. The feet may be taken off from the pedals or foot rests only if the road condition so requires.

## **SECTION 24. SPECIFIC TYPES OF MEANS OF CONVEYANCE**

(1) Wheelchairs and hand-propelled wheelchairs, toboggan sleds, baby carriages, scooters, children's bicycles and similar means of conveyance are not considered vehicles within the meaning of this Ordinance.

(2) Invalid chairs or wheelchairs other than those mentioned in paragraph (1) may be used in areas where pedestrians are permitted, however, only at a walking pace.

## **SECTION 25. PEDESTRIANS**

(1) Pedestrians must use the sidewalks: On streets without sidewalks and without shoulders, pedestrians may use the roadway. If they use the roadway, they must walk at the right or left edge of the roadway within built-up areas; outside built-up areas they must walk at the left edge of the roadway if this is at all possible. In case of darkness or poor visibility or if the traffic situation so demands, they must walk in file one behind the other.

(2) Pedestrians taking along vehicles or bulky objects must use the roadway if they would considerably impede the other pedestrians on the sidewalk or on the shoulders. If pedestrians taking along vehicles use the roadway, they must walk at the right edge of the roadway; before turning to the left, they are not allowed to assume a position at the left.

(3) Pedestrians shall cross roadways expeditiously by the shortest route perpendicular to the driving direction and pay attention to road traffic, and if the traffic situation so demands, they may cross only at intersections or junctions, at signal devices within the markings, or on pedestrian crosswalks (sign 293). If the roadway is crossed at intersections or junctions, existing pedestrian crosswalks or markings at light signal devices shall always be used.

(4) Pedestrians may not climb over road barriers, such as fences made of bars or chain links. Barrier gates (sec 43) prohibit entry into blocked roads.

(5) Track systems not serving general public road traffic must be entered only at places provided for this purpose.

## **SECTION 26. PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS**

(1) At pedestrian crosswalks, vehicles, with the exception of rail vehicles, shall allow pedestrians as well as users of invalid chairs or wheelchairs to cross the roadway when they have clearly indicated their intention. Then vehicles shall approach at a moderate speed; if necessary, they must wait.

(2) If traffic becomes congested, vehicles may not drive on to the crosswalk if they would have to wait there.

(3) At crosswalks passing is prohibited.

(4) If the markings are found on cycle paths or other parts of the road, these provisions are analogously applicable.

## **SECTION 27. FORMATIONS**

(1) The traffic regulations and directives existing generally and uniformly for traffic apply correspondingly to closed formations. More than 15 bicyclists may ride in a closed formation. Then they may ride two abreast on the roadway. Groups of children and youth groups must use the sidewalk as far as this is possible.

(2) Closed formations, funeral processions, and parades must at adequate distances leave space for other traffic if their length so requires; at other places they may not be broken by traffic.

(3) A formation is closed if its character is clearly noticeable to other road users. In motor vehicle formations all vehicles must be individually marked as belonging to the formation.

(4) The outline of closed formations either on horseback or walking must, if necessary (sec 17, para (1)), be made recognizable at least to the front by non-blinding lamps with white lights, and to the rear by lamps with red light or yellow blinking light. If such a formation is divided into several, distinctly separated groups, each one must be marked in this way. The formations need not have their own lighting if they are otherwise sufficiently illuminated.

(5) The leader of the formation must make sure that the provisions applicable to closed formations are observed.

(6) Cadence marching is not allowed on bridges.

## **SECTION 28. ANIMALS**

(1) Domestic animals that may endanger traffic shall be kept away from the road. They are permitted there only if escorted by persons who are able to control them to the necessary degree. It is forbidden to lead animals from motor vehicles. Bicyclists may only lead dogs.

(2) The traffic regulations and directives existing generally and uniformly for traffic are analogously applicable to riders, persons leading horses, as well as to drovers and herdsman. Minimum lighting is required as follows--

1. When driving cattle, a non-blinding lamp with a white light at the front and a lamp with a red light at the rear.

2. When leading just one big animal or livestock, a non-blinding lamp with a white light shall be carried on the left side so that it is clearly visible at the front and the rear.

## **SECTION 29. EXCESSIVE USE OF THE ROAD**

(1) Races with motor vehicles are prohibited.

(2) Events that cause the roads to be used above the normal degree require permission. This is the case when the use of the road for traffic is restricted, because of the number or the conduct of the participants in the event or the manner in which participating vehicles are operated; motor vehicles in a closed formation are deemed to place a greater demand on the road than normal traffic. The organizer shall make sure that the traffic regulations as well as other conditions and requirements are followed.

(3) Permission is required for the operation of vehicles and a combination of vehicles if their measurements, axle load, or total weight actually exceed the generally authorized legal limits. This also applies to traffic with vehicles if their construction does not allow the driver sufficient visibility.

## **SECTION 30. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PROHIBITION TO DRIVE ON SUNDAYS**

(1) When using vehicles, undue noise and avoidable pollution by exhaust gas is forbidden. Especially prohibited is the unnecessary running of motors and shutting doors with excessive noise. Purposely driving back and forth is prohibited within built-up areas, if others are inconvenienced thereby.

(2) Events with motor vehicles require permission if they might disturb the night rest.

(3) Trucks with an authorized total weight of more than 7.5 tons as well as trailers hitched to trucks may not be driven on Sundays and legal holidays between 0000 hours and 2200 hours. The prohibition does not apply to--

1. Combined railroad freight traffic from the dispatcher to the nearest, suitable unloading station or from the nearest suitable unloading station to the recipient, however, only up to a distance of 200 km.

1a. Combined harbor-road freight traffic between loading or unloading place and a harbor located within a circumference of 150 km at maximum (to or from the harbor).

2. Transport of--

a. Fresh milk and fresh milk products.

b. Fresh meat and fresh meat products.

c. Fresh fish, living fish and fresh fish products.

d. Perishable fruit and vegetables.

3. Unloaded trips which are in connection with trips according to number 2.

4. Trips with vehicles which are used pursuant to the Federal Requisitioning Law. The requisition order must be carried along and be presented for examination to competent persons upon request.

(4) Holidays within the meaning of paragraph (3) are--

New Year's Day

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Labor Day (1 May)

Ascension Day

Whit Monday

Corpus Christi Day (however, only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saarland)

Day of German Unity (3 October),

Reformation Day (31 October) (however, only in Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia)

All Saints (1 November) (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saarland)

1st and 2d Christmas Day

### **SECTION 31. SPORTS AND GAMES**

Sports and games on the roadway and shoulders are only permitted on roads provided for that purpose (supplemental signs below signs 101 and 250.)

### **SECTION 32. OBSTRUCTIONS TO TRAFFIC**

(1) It is forbidden to make the road wet or dirty, to litter it, or to bring or leave objects on the road if traffic may be thereby endangered or aggravated. A person who is responsible for creating such traffic obstructing conditions shall immediately clear them and shall, until this is done, mark them sufficiently. Traffic obstructions shall, if necessary (sec 17, para (1)), be illuminated with their own light sources or be marked by other permitted light-technical devices.

(2) Scythes, mowing blades, or similarly dangerous tools shall be effectively encased.

### **SECTION 33. IMPAIRMENT OF TRAFFIC**

(1) It is prohibited--

1. To use loudspeakers.

2. To peddle any goods and services on the road.

3. To display any kind of advertising and propaganda by means of pictures, writing, light, or sound outside built-up areas

if road users are thereby molested or distracted in a manner endangering or aggravating traffic. Also, traffic outside built-up areas may not be impaired by advertising and propaganda inside built-up areas.

(2) Devices that are similar to signs or traffic devices (secs 36 - 43), which may be mistaken for them or could impair their effect, may not be erected or otherwise used where they may affect traffic. Advertising and propaganda in connection with traffic signs and traffic devices shall not be permissible.

### **SECTION 34. ACCIDENTS**

(1) After a traffic accident, every person involved must--

1. Stop immediately.

2. Take steps to provide for traffic safety, and in the case of minor damage, remove his vehicle to the side of the road without delay.

3. Ascertain the extent of damage.

4. Assist injured persons (sec 323c, Criminal Code).

5. With respect to others involved and injured in the accident and present at the scene--

a. Indicate that he is involved in the accident.

b. Upon request give his name and address, show his driver's license and vehicle registration certificate and furnish information about his liability insurance to the best of his knowledge--

6. a) Remain at the scene of the accident until those persons involved or injured have had the opportunity by his presence to determine his identity, his vehicle, and the nature of his involvement.

b) Remain for a period of time at the scene which is reasonable under the circumstances, and leave behind at the scene his name and address if no one is available to make the above factual determinations.

7. Make possible subsequent determinations of information without delay in case he is justified or excused to leave the scene or leaves after the waiting time (6b, above) has expired. In this case he must at least inform one of the entitled persons (6a above), or a closely located police station, that he was involved in the accident, give his address, residence and his license plate number and the location of his vehicle and keep it available for immediate determination for a reasonable period of time.

(2) A person involved in an accident is anyone whose conduct may under the circumstances, have contributed to the accident.

(3) Evidence of the accident may not be removed until the necessary factual determinations have been made.

## **SECTION 35. SPECIAL PRIVILEGES**

(1) The Federal Armed Forces, the Federal Frontier Guard, the Fire Brigade, and Disaster Services, the Police, and the Customs Service shall be exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance in so far as it is urgently required for the execution of their sovereign tasks.

(1a) Paragraph (1) shall apply accordingly for foreign officers, who on the basis of international agreements have the right to hot pursuit or observation within Germany.

(2) However, these organizations shall also be required to obtain permission under the conditions of paragraph (1) above

1. If they intend to drive more than 30 motor vehicles in convoy (sec 27).

2. In all other cases of other excessive road use, except for that road use under section 29, paragraph (3) (sentence 2).

(3) Beyond the provisions of paragraph (2) above, the Federal Armed Forces are also authorized to make abnormal use of the road, in so far as agreements have been made.

(4) The restriction of the special privileges by paragraphs (2) and (3) above shall not apply to missions in case of accidents, disasters, and disturbances of public safety and order, or in the cases of Article 91 and Article 87a, paragraph (4) of the Basic Law, as well as in the event of defense cases or in periods of tension .

(5) The Forces of non-German States that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty shall, in the event of urgent military exigencies, be exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance, but from the provisions of section 29 only in so far as special regulations or agreements exist for these Forces.

(5a) Vehicles of the rescue service are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance if urgency is imperative to save human lives or to avert serious injuries to the health.

(6) Vehicles used for the construction, maintenance, or cleaning of roads and road facilities or the removal of refuse and that are marked by white-red-white warning devices may be driven and stopped on all roads, parts of roads, and on each side of the road in every direction at any time, as far as their employment requires, however, for the cleaning of sidewalks only if the permitted total weight does not exceed 2.8 tons. The same also applies to vehicles cleaning the sidewalks, if their permitted total weight does not exceed 3.5 t and the internal tire pressure is not more than 3 bar. In this connection it is to make sure that no damage is caused to the sidewalks and the supply lines lying underneath. Persons who are engaged in this task or who inspect roads or installations bounded by such roads, must during their work outside sidewalks and barriers, wear conspicuous warning clothing.

(7) Measuring vehicles of the Adjustment Authority (*Regulierungsbehörde*) for telecommunication and postal services (section 66, Telecommunication Law) may drive and stop on all roads and parts of the road if this is required by their sovereign tasks.

(8) The special privileges may be exercised only with due consideration for public safety and order.

## **PART II SIGNS AND TRAFFIC DEVICES**

### **SECTION 36. SIGNALS AND INSTRUCTIONS BY POLICE OFFICERS**

(1) The signals and instructions given by police officers shall be obeyed. They shall prevail over all other directives and any other rules but do not relieve the road user from his duty of care.

(2) Signals given at intersections shall have the following meaning--

1. Extension of one or both arms sideways across the path of approaching traffic:

“Stop in front of the intersection.”

Lateral traffic is allowed to move.

This signal once having been given by the officer continues in force as long as he signals the same direction or maintains his basic position.

The traffic that may proceed may turn, in accordance with the rules of section 9, however, to the left only if rail vehicles are not impeded.

2. Raising of one arm:

“Wait in front of the intersection for the next signal.”

For road users in an intersection.

“Clear the intersection.”

(3) These signals may be supplemented or altered by additional instructions.

(4) At other places on the road, for example at junctions and at pedestrian crossings, the signals shall have corresponding meaning.

(5) Police officers may stop road users for the purpose of traffic controls including control of roadworthiness and for the purpose of traffic survey. The officer can give the signal stop by appropriate technical devices installed at the police car, a signal disc, or a red lamp. A preceding vehicle can also be stopped with these signaling devices. The road users shall comply with the police instructions.

## **SECTION 37. CHANGING AND CONSTANT LIGHT SIGNALS AND GREEN ARROW**

(1) Light signals shall take precedence over rules as to priority, traffic signs regulating priority, and markings on the roadway.

(2) Changing light signals appear in the sequence of green-yellow-red and red-yellow-green. Red is at the top, yellow in the middle and green at the bottom.

1. The meaning of colors at intersections is--

Green: "Traffic may proceed."

Traffic may turn, in accordance with the rules of section 9, however, to the left only if rail vehicles are not impeded.

Green arrows: "Traffic may proceed only in the direction indicated by the arrow."

A green arrow at the left behind the intersection indicates that oncoming traffic is stopped by a red traffic light, and that traffic participants wishing to turn to the left may enter and clear the intersection without hindrance in the direction indicated by the green arrow.

Yellow: "Wait in front of the intersection for the next signal"

None of these signals shall relieve the road user from his duty of taking care.

Red: "Stop in front of the intersection."

After stopping it is permitted to turn right even at a red light if on the right side of the red light signal a sign depicting a green arrow on black (green arrow) is installed. The driver of the vehicle may only turn from the right lane. he has to conduct himself in a manner by which impairment or endangerment of other road users, in particular pedestrians and vehicle traffic on the lane which is allowed to move, is excluded.

A black arrow on red means stop, a black arrow on yellow means wait only for the direction indicated by the arrow.

A one-field signal with green arrow indicates that a right turn may be made on red for the traffic going straight on.

2. At other places on the road, such as at junctions and where the road is marked for pedestrians, the light signals shall have corresponding meanings.

3. Light signal installations may be restricted to the color sequence yellow-red.

4. A separate light signal may exist for each of several marked traffic lanes (signs 295, 296, or 340). Special signals, also in differing phases, may be given for rail vehicles; the same applies also to scheduled buses and taxis that use lanes cleared from other traffic.

5. Where light signals apply to pedestrians or to cyclists only, the symbol of a pedestrian or of a cycle will so indicate. The sequence of colors for pedestrians shall be green-red-green; this may also apply to cyclists. If green changes to red while pedestrians are crossing the roadway, they shall proceed expeditiously.

6. Cyclists shall observe the light signals for pedestrians if a cycle path ford borders on a pedestrian ford and there are no special light signals for cyclists.

(3) Constant light signals above each traffic lane mean that traffic is allowed to move only in one direction or the other.

Crossed red diagonal bars mean:

"Vehicles must not use the traffic lane and must not stop in front of it."

A green arrow pointing downwards means:

"The traffic lane is open for traffic."

A yellow flashing arrow pointing obliquely downwards indicates: change traffic lane in the direction indicated by the arrow.

(4) Where light signals regulate traffic, vehicles may be driven abreast, even if the density of traffic does not justify this.

### SECTION 38. BLUE AND YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS

(1) A blue flashing light together with a police siren may be used only if the greatest haste is necessary in order to save human life or to avert serious injuries to the health, to ward off danger to public safety or order, to pursue escaping persons, or to rescue valuable objects.

It means: "All other road users must immediately clear a lane."

(2) A blue flashing light alone may be used only by vehicles equipped with it and only to warn road users of locations of accidents or other emergency operations, when on route to an operation, or for the escorting of vehicles or convoys.

(3) A yellow flashing light warns of danger. It may be installed in a fixed position or on vehicles. The use on vehicles is only permitted to warn of road construction sites or accident scenes, vehicles traveling at an exceptionally slow speed, or vehicles of exceptional width or length or with exceptional wide or long load.

### SECTION 39. TRAFFIC SIGNS

(1) In view of the obligation of all persons participating in road traffic to observe on their own responsibility the general and specific regulations of conduct stipulated in this ordinance, local instructions by traffic signs are only given where cogently required by special circumstances.

(1a) Inside built-up areas away from priority roads (sign 306), road users must expect zones with a 30 km/h speed limit (sign 274.1).

(2) Traffic signs consist of warning signs (*Gefahrenzeichen*), regulatory signs (*Vorschriftzeichen*), and guiding signs (*Richtzeichen*). Supplemental signs are also traffic signs. Supplemental signs show black illustrations or inscriptions on a white field with black margin. They are erected directly below traffic signs. Traffic signs and supplemental signs may also be attached together to a bearing surface. In deviation from the traffic signs and supplemental signs shown, the white fields may be black and the black symbols and the black margin may be white if these signs are produced by lights only.

(2a) Traffic signs may be attached to a vehicle. They also have to be complied with when the vehicle is moving. They take precedence over the instructions on the fixed traffic signs.

(3) Control by traffic signs shall take precedence over general traffic rules.

(4) If symbols are shown on traffic signs other than those shown under sections 40 to 42, the symbols on these signs have the following meaning:



Motor vehicle or other multi-lane  
motor vehicles



Motor vehicles with an authorized total  
weight of more than 3.5t, including  
their trailers, and tractors, except  
passenger cars and motor buses



Bicyclists



Pedestrians



Riders



Animal Drive, Animals



Streetcar



Motor Bus



Passenger Car



Passenger Car with Trailer



Truck with Trailer



Motor vehicles and trains of vehicles  
which can or may not drive faster than  
25 km/h



Motorbikes

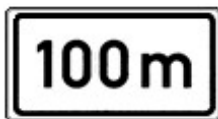


Motorcycles, also with sidecar,  
small motorcycles and motorbikes

#### SECTION 40. WARNING SIGNS (*GEFAHRENZEICHEN*)

(1) Warning signs caution the road user to be prepared for the danger indicated.

(2) Outside built-up areas, these signs are generally located 150 - 250 m before the danger spot. If the distance is considerably less this may be stated by a supplemental sign, as for example



(3) Within built-up areas, they are generally located shortly before the danger spot.

(4) A supplemental sign as for example



may indicate the length of the  
dangerous stretch.

(5) If a warning sign is located before a junction, a black arrow on a supplemental sign shall point in the direction of the danger spot, if it is on another road.

(6) Warning signs indicating danger are as follows

Sign 101



Danger

A supplemental sign may describe the danger more specifically. The following supplemental sign



for example, is a warning of soft shoulders on the roadway.

The supplemental sign



allows winter sports on the roadway, but possibly at a restricted time, such as "0900-1700 hours."

Sign 102



Intersection or Junction, Vehicles From the Right Have the Right-of-Way

Sign 103



Single Curve (right)

Sign 105



Double Curve (first to the right)

Sign 108



Dangerous Downgrade

Sign 110



Dangerous Upgrade

Sign 112



Uneven Surface

Sign 113



Danger of Skidding Due to Ice or Snow

Sign 114



Slippery Road When Wet or Dirty

Sign 115



Falling Rocks

Sign 116



Chat, Gravel on Road Surface

Sign 117



Crosswinds

Sign 120



Road Narrows

Sign 121



Road Narrows (on right side)

Sign 123



Construction Site

Sign 124



Traffic Jam

Sign 125



Oncoming Traffic

Sign 128



Drawbridge Ahead

Sign 129



Quay or River Bank

Sign 131



Signal Lights

Sign 133



Pedestrians

Sign 134



Pedestrian Crosswalk Ahead

The signs 128 - 134 are also located within built-up areas at a reasonable distance before reaching a danger spot. The distance may be stated on a supplemental sign (para (2), sentence 2).

Sign 136



Children

Sign 138



Bicycle Crossing

Sign 140



Animal Drive, Animals

Sign 142



Wild Animal Crossing

Sign 142



Low Flying Aircraft

Warning signs of a similar nature with suitable symbols may warn of other danger spots.

(7) Special warning signs in front of railroad crossings where rail vehicles have right-of-way:

Sign 150



Guarded Railroad Crossing

Sign 151



Unguarded Railroad Crossing

or the following three warning signs: approx. 240 m before a railroad.

Sign 153



(3 stripes toward the left): In front of  
Guarded Railroad Crossing

Sign 156



(3 stripes toward the right): In front of  
Unguarded Railroad Crossing

Sign 159



approx. 160 m before Guarded  
Railroad Crossing (2 stripes toward the  
left)

Sign 162



approx. 80 m before Unguarded  
Railroad Crossing (1 stripe toward the  
right)

If these signs are erected at considerably varying distances, the distance in meters shall be indicated by black figures above the diagonal stripes.

#### SECTION 41. REGULATORY SIGNS (*VORSCHRIFTZEICHEN*)

(1) Signs or white markings on the road surface also indicate requirements and prohibitions.

(2) As a rule, signs are located on the right-hand side. If signs apply only to particular marked traffic lanes (signs 295, 296, or 340), they are, as a rule, fixed above these lanes. The signs are generally located where or from where the instructions must be observed. Otherwise, if necessary, the distance to such locations shall be indicated on a supplemental sign (sec 40, para (2)). Other supplemental signs shall contain only general restrictions of these requirements or prohibitions, or general exceptions to them. Special supplemental signs may regulate something else (in addition to signs 237, 250, 283, 286, 290 and after sign 277).

##### 1. Waiting and stopping requirements:

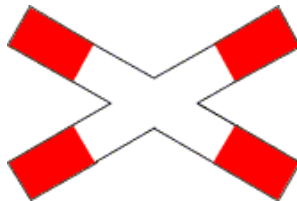
###### a. At railroad crossings:

Sign 201



Warning Railroad Crossing, Give Way  
to Rail Traffic!

Sign 201



Warning Railroad Crossing, Give Way  
to Rail Traffic!

(Also With Arms Extending Laterally.)

It is located in front of the railroad crossing, i.e., generally directly in front of it. A lightning bolt in the center of the warning cross indicates that it is an electric railroad line. A supplemental sign with a black arrow indicates that the warning cross applies only to road traffic moving in the direction of the arrow.

b. At intersections and junctions:

Sign 205



Yield Right-of-Way

The sign is located immediately before an intersection or junction. It may be announced by the same sign with a supplemental sign (such as “100 m”).

Where rail vehicles cross circular traffic, at turns or similar rail installations, the sign with the symbol of a streetcar on a supplemental sign fixed above it, indicates the requirement: “Yield Right-of-Way to Rail Traffic.”

Where bicycle paths on the left are also open for oncoming traffic and where cyclists cross the roadway, the following supplemental sign can be fixed above sign 205:



Together with the supplemental sign, sign 205 indicates the requirement “Yield right of way and watch out for bicycle traffic from left and right crossing the roadway.”

Sign 206



Stop, Yield Right-of-Way

The unqualified requirement to stop shall be complied with at a place from where there is an unobstructed view of the other road, but in any case, at the stop line (sign 294).

The sign is located immediately in front of the intersection or junction.

Outside built-up areas, the requirement to stop shall be indicated by sign 205 with a supplemental sign.



Within built-up areas, the requirement to stop may be indicated in this manner.

The course of a priority road may be indicated by a supplemental sign to signs 205 and 206



as shown above.

c. Where a road narrows:

Sign 208



Oncoming Traffic Has Right-of-Way

2. Prescribed direction of travel:

Sign 209



Mandatory Direction of Travel (right)

Sign 211



Mandatory Direction of Travel (here right)

Sign 214



Mandatory Direction of Travel (straight or right)

Other directions of travel shall be prescribed correspondingly.

Sign 215



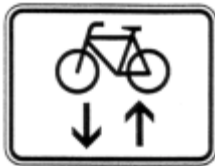
Traffic Circle

Sign 220



It shall be fixed parallel to the direction of travel and shall prescribe the direction for all road users on the roadway; for pedestrians, however, only if they accompany a vehicle.

If in a one-way road with a low traffic load the authorized speed is limited by traffic signs to 30 km/h or less the supplemental sign



may permit bicycle traffic in the opposite direction. In such a case the supplemental sign shall also be attached to sign 353. From the opposite direction the supplemental sign “Cyclists allowed (symbol)” shall be attached to sign 267.

### 3. Prescribed passing:

Sign 222



Mandatory Direction of Travel  
(Pass to the right)

“Pass to the left” shall be prescribed correspondingly.

### 4. Official stops:

Sign 224



Streetcars or Scheduled Buses

A school bus stop is marked by sign 224 supplemented by sign “Schulbus (indication of times of day used)”.

Sign 229



Taxi Parking Only

A supplemental sign may indicate the number of taxis permitted.

5. Special Paths:

Sign 237



Bicycle Only

Sign 238



Horseback Riders Only

Sign 239



Pedestrians Only

These signs shall be located on the right or left. The symbols of signs 237 and 239 may also be on one sign, separated by a vertical white line. A combined bicycle and footpath may be marked by one sign showing the relevant symbols separated by a horizontal white line. The sign "Pedestrians only" ("Fußgänger") is only located in places where such a clarification is necessary. The use of the bicycle path by motorbikes may be permitted by a supplemental sign.

Sign 240



Combined Foot- and Bicycle path

Sign 241



Separated Bicycle and Footpath

The signs mean:

- a. Bicyclists, horseback riders, and pedestrians must use the special paths provided. Other road users may not use them.
- b. A person who proceeds on a motorbike by using its pedals must use the cycle path.
- c. Bicyclists and riders of motorized two-wheeled vehicles using a combined bicycle-footpath must show special consideration for pedestrians.
- d. On bridle paths, horses may be led.

e. If in the case of sign 239 motor vehicle traffic is permitted by a supplemental sign, vehicles must not exceed walking speed.

f. If by a supplemental sign to sign 237 other motor vehicles are permitted, vehicles may only be operated at moderate speed.

Sign 242



Beginning of a Pedestrian Zone

Sign 243



End of a Pedestrian Zone

Within a pedestrian zone the following applies:

1. The pedestrian zone is reserved for pedestrians. Other road users may not use it.

2. If motor vehicles are permitted by a supplemental sign vehicles may not exceed walking pace. Vehicle drivers may neither endanger nor impede pedestrians; if necessary, they must wait.

SIGN 244



SIGN 244a



On roads reserved for bicycles the regulations on the use of roadways apply; in deviation therefrom the following applies:

1. Road users operating other vehicles than bicycles may only use roads reserved for bicycles if indicated by a supplemental sign.

2. All vehicles may only drive at moderate speed.

3. Bicycle riders may also ride abreast.

Sign 245



Scheduled Buses

The special traffic lane marked in this way is reserved to scheduled buses. The same will apply to taxis if this is indicated by the additional sign "taxi." as well as for bicycles if this is indicated by the sign below:



Other traffic participants may not use the special traffic lane.

#### 6. Traffic Prohibitions:

Traffic prohibitions prohibit road traffic either partially or completely. If in case of traffic prohibitions which are imposed for reasons of air pollution, exceptions for motor vehicles are granted by traffic signs, it is indicated by a supplemental sign to signs 251, 253, 255, 260, or 270.

The supplemental sign:



Exemption from traffic prohibition pursuant to § 40, paragraph (2) of the Federal Clean Air Act excludes motor vehicles from traffic prohibition:

a) which are marked with a G-Kat sticker (catalytic converter of category G) or with an official badge which was issued in accordance with the Appendix re § 40c, paragraph (1) of the Federal Clean Air Act in the version of the publication of 14 May 1990 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 880) last amended by Article 2 of the Law of 18 April 1997 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 805) or in the cases of § 40e, paragraph (2) of the Federal Clean Air Act in the version of Article 1, no. 1 of the Law of 19 July 1995 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 930), or

b) which are used for trips of a special purpose within the meaning of § 40d, paragraph (1), number 1 through 6 of the Federal Clean Air Act in the version of Article 1, no. 1 of the Law of 19 July 1995 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 930) or for social welfare to be provided to the population within the area where traffic is prohibited.

Sign 250



Prohibited for All Types of Vehicles

It does not apply to hand-propelled vehicles, in deviation from section 28, paragraph (2)), or to animals. Motorcycles and bicycles may be pushed.

The supplemental sign



allows children to play on the roadway and on the shoulders. Sports may also be allowed which will be indicated by a supplemental sign.

Sign 251



Prohibited for Motor Vehicles and  
Other Multi-Track Vehicles

Sign 253



Prohibited for Motor vehicles with an  
authorized total weight of exceeding  
3.5 tons, including their trailers and for  
tractors, except passenger cars and  
motorbuses

Sign 254



Prohibited for Cyclists

Sign 255



Prohibited for Motorcycles, also with  
sidecars, light motorcycles, and  
motorbikes

Sign 259



Prohibited for Pedestrians

a. Corresponding prohibitions may also be issued for other kinds of traffic, such as trucks, horseback riders, by means of sign 250 with an appropriate symbol.

b. If a weight, such as “7.5 tons”, is indicated on a supplemental sign, the prohibition shall only apply if the authorized total weight of these means of transport exceeds the limit indicated.

c. Several of these prohibitions may be combined in one sign.

Sign 260



Prohibited for motorcycles, also with sidecar, light motorcycles and motorbikes as well as for motor vehicles and other multi-track motor vehicles.

Sign 261



Prohibited for motor vehicles transporting hazardous goods subject to identification.

Prohibition of vehicles, whose:

Sign 262



Actual Weight  
Sign 264



Width

Sign 263



Actual Axle Weight  
Sign 265



Height

Sign 266



Length

each with the load included, exceeds a certain limit.

For trains of vehicles, the restriction of sign 262 shall apply to the individual vehicle, for semitrailer vehicles to the truck-tractor, including the load borne directly by it, and to the actual axle-load of the semitrailer itself. Sign 266 shall also apply to trains of vehicles.

Sign 267



Entry Prohibited

The sign is located on the right-hand side of the roadway to which it applies, or on both sides of the roadway.

Sign 268



Prohibited for Vehicles Carrying  
Cargo Liable to Pollute Water

Sign 269



Snow Chains Mandatory

Sign 270



Prohibition in Case of Smog or in  
Order To Reduce Harmful Air  
Pollution

Prohibition of motor vehicles pursuant to Smog Ordinances under *Land* law or in case measures are taken to prevent harmful effects on the environment by air pollution pursuant to section 40, paragraph 2 of the Clean Air Act (*Bundesimmissionschutzgesetz*).

Sign 272



No U-Turn

Sign 273



Prohibition to Drive Without Keeping  
a Minimum Distance

It prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle with an authorized total weight exceeding 3.5 tons or of a tractor or truck, with the exception of passenger cars and motorbuses, to go below the indicated minimum distance to a preceding motor vehicle of the same kind.

The type of vehicles the sign applies to may be specified more precisely by a supplemental sign.

## 7. Prohibitions applicable to stretches of roads:

They restrict traffic on certain stretches of roads.

Sign 274



Maximum Speed Limit

prohibits driving faster than at a certain speed. If by this sign certain speeds exceeding 50 km/h are permitted within built-up areas, this shall apply to vehicles of all kinds. Out-side built-up areas the maximum speed applicable to certain types of vehicles (sec 3, para (3), nos. 2a and b, and sec 18, para (5)) remains unaffected if a higher speed is permitted by the sign.

The supplemental sign



prohibits driving in excess of the indicated speed when the roadway is wet.

Sign 274.1



Beginning of Zone with 30 km/h  
Maximum Speed

Sign 274.2



End of Zone with 30 km/h Maximum  
Speed

These signs indicate the beginning and end of a zone with a maximum permitted speed of 30 km/h. By these signs a maximum speed lower than 30 km/h can also be ordered for a certain zone, e.g. a commercial area where pedestrians have priority. Within this zone it is prohibited to drive at a higher speed than the one indicated by the sign.

Sign 275



Compulsory Minimum Speed

prohibits driving slower than at a certain speed. It prohibits drivers of vehicles from using a road who, because of lack of personal capabilities, or because of the special qualities of the vehicle or load, cannot or may not drive faster. Road, traffic, visual, or weather conditions may compel drivers to drive more slowly.

Sign 276



Passing Prohibitions

No motor vehicles of any kind

Sign 277



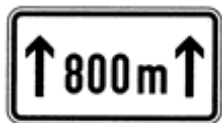
Passing Prohibitions

No motor vehicles with an authorized total weight exceeding 3.5 tons including their trailers or towing vehicles, except passenger cars and motorbuses,

may pass multi-tracked motor vehicles or motorcycles with sidecars.

If, on supplemental sign, a weight such as “7,5t” is indicated, the prohibition shall apply only if the authorized total weight of these means of transportation exceeds the indicated limit.

The length of a stretch of road to which a prohibition applies may, at its beginning, be indicated by a supplemental sign like the following:



The end of a stretch of road to which a prohibition applies shall not be indicated if the prohibition sign for the stretch is fixed together with a warning sign and if the locality leaves no doubt from which point the indicated danger no longer exists. It is also not indicated if the prohibition applies only to a short stretch and if the length of the stretch of road to which the prohibition applies is indicated by a supplemental sign. Otherwise, it shall be indicated by

Sign 278



Sign 279



Sign 280



Sign 281



Where all prohibitions applicable to a stretch of road end,

Sign 282



shall be located. These signs may also be erected on the left-hand side only.

#### 8. Stopping prohibitions

Sign 283



No Stopping



It shall prohibit any stopping on the roadway. The supplemental sign also prohibits stopping on the shoulders.

Sign 286



Restricted No Stopping

It prohibits stopping on the roadway longer than 3 minutes except for the purpose of boarding or alighting from a vehicle or for the purpose of loading or unloading. Loading and/or unloading must be carried out without delay.

The supplemental sign “also on the shoulders” (following sign 283 above) may also be erected here. The supplemental sign with the words “on the shoulders” prohibits stopping on the shoulders only.

The supplemental sign “(wheel-chair symbol) *mit Parkausweis Nr. .... frei*” indicates that disabled persons whose ability to walk is severely impaired and blind persons, both with a special parking permit are exempt from the no-stopping prohibition.

The supplemental sign “*Anwohner mit besonderem Parkausweis frei*” exempts residents with a special parking permit from the no-stopping prohibition.

The exceptions are valid only if the parking permits are displayed in such a way that they are clearly legible.

- a. Stopping prohibitions shall apply only to that side of the road on which the signs are erected.
- b. They shall apply only up to the next intersection or junction on the same side of the road.
- c. The beginning of the prohibition for a stretch of road may be indicated by a horizontal white arrow pointing to the roadway, and the end of the prohibition by an arrow pointing away from the roadway. On signs set up additionally within the prohibited portion, a horizontal arrow points to the roadway and a second one away from it.

Sign 290



Restricted No Stopping in a Zone

Sign 291



Parking Disk

Sign 292



End of “Restricted No Stopping” in a Zone

The limits of the zones to which the prohibition for stopping applies are defined by means of these signs.

The prohibition applies to all public traffic areas within the areas demarcated by sign 290 and 292, unless different regulations are ordered or permitted by traffic signs. By a supplemental sign the use of a parking disk or parking ticket may be prescribed or parking may be restricted to areas which are marked accordingly if parking is not for the purpose of boarding or alighting or loading or unloading.

(3) Road markings—

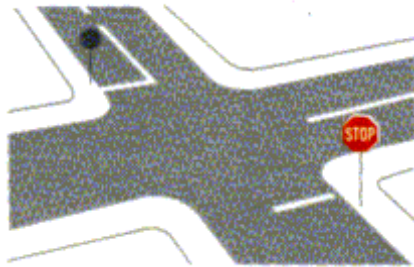
1. Pedestrian crosswalk:

Sign 293



2. Stop line:

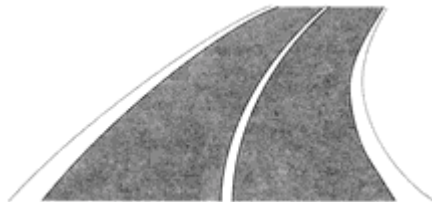
Sign 294



In addition to instructions to stop or wait, which are given by sign 206, by police officials, or by light signals, it means: “Stop here!” The same applies before railroad crossings to the person who must wait (sec 19, para (2)).

3. Designation of the traffic lane and of the roadway:

Sign 295



This consists of a solid line.

a. It is used primarily to delineate the part of the roadway intended for oncoming traffic or several lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction. The demarcation of traffic lane lines may be a double line.

It directs: Vehicles must not cross or drive on the line. If it delineates the part of the roadway reserved for oncoming traffic it further directs: Traffic shall keep to the right of the line.

Parking (sec 12, para (2)) on the roadway shall only be allowed, if a traffic lane of at least 3 m remains between the parked vehicle and the line.

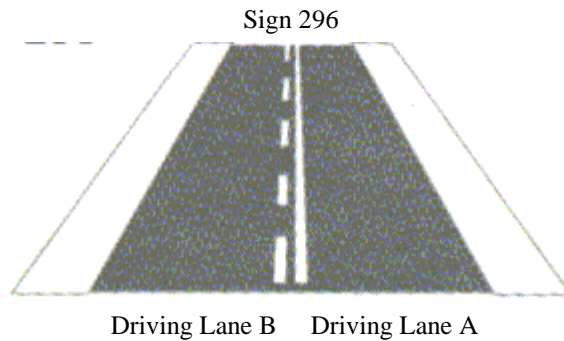
b. The solid line may also be on the edge of the roadway. In such case it makes the edge of the roadway clearly recognizable. If, to the right of it, sufficient road space remains available (paved shoulder), it directs:

aa. Agricultural tractors and machinery, carts, and similar slow vehicles must drive to the right of it, if possible.

bb. Vehicles must not stop to the left of it.

If the solid line delineates the center island of a traffic circle vehicles may only drive over it in the case of section 9a, paragraph (2), sentence 2.

4. Delineation of one side of a traffic lane:



It consists of a solid line, parallel to a broken one.

For vehicles proceeding in direction A, the marking means:

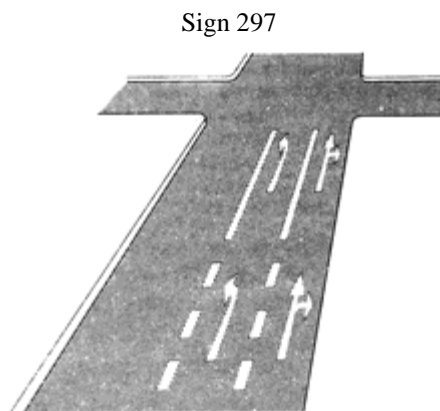
a) Vehicles may not cross the solid line or drive on it,

b) Parking (sec 12, para (2)) on the roadway shall only be allowed if a driving lane of at least 3 m remains between the parked vehicle and the solid line.

Vehicles proceeding in driving lane B may drive over the line if traffic is not thereby endangered.

5. Arrows. Arrows located abreast and pointing in different directions advise vehicles to merge in good time and to drive in lanes running parallel to each other. Vehicles that have already merged may also be passed on the right.

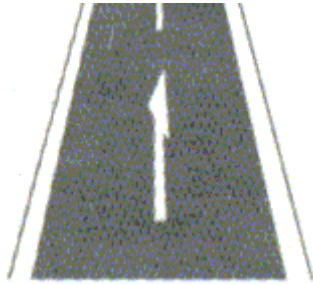
If centerlines (sign 340) or traffic lane lines (sign 295) are marked between the arrows,



the arrows shall prescribe the directions of travel at the next intersection or junction. Stopping on the part of the roadway marked in this manner is prohibited.

5a. Advance arrow.

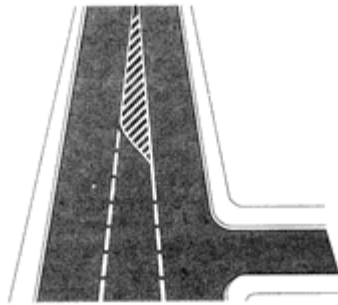
Sign 297.1



The advance arrow can announce a demarcation of traffic lane lines or indicate the end of a traffic lane line.

6. Closed areas

Sign 298



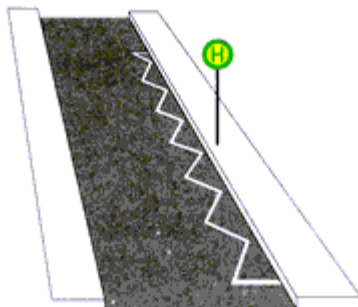
They may not be used by vehicles.

7. Parking space markings shall allow parking (sec 12, para (2)), on sidewalks, however, only for vehicles with an authorized total weight of up to 2.8 tons. If parking spaces on roads are delineated by solid lines this indicates how the vehicles are to be parked. On indicated parking areas (signs 314, 315, and 316) and at parking meters, a simpler marking shall suffice for this purpose.

Solid lines may be crossed.

8. Marking of limits for stopping and parking prohibitions.

Sign 299



The marking designates, extends or reduces prescribed stopping and parking prohibitions.

9. All lines may be replaced by rows of marking studs spaced at regular intervals. In shopping zones with pedestrian priority (sec 45, para (1c)) road lanes may also be marked by other means e.g. lines of paving stones.

(4) Conspicuous devices such as yellow markings, rows of yellow marking studs, rows of lighted marking studs or rows of red-white traffic lane markings (*Leitmarken*) negate directives given by traffic lane delineations (sign 295) and traffic lane indicating lines (white lines) (sign 340). Vehicles may not cross or drive on these. For rows of lighted marking studs this applies only if they are turned on. Only if the conspicuous devices are installed so that they appear like traffic lane indicating lines may they be crossed, provided traffic is not thereby endangered.

## SECTION 42. GUIDING SIGNS (*RICHTZEICHEN*)

(1) Guiding signs (*Richtzeichen*) give special guidance to facilitate traffic. They may also contain directives.

(2) Priority:

Sign 301



This sign shall indicate the right-of-way only at the next intersection or junction. Outside built-up areas, it shall be located 150-250 m before the intersection or junction, otherwise the distance (for example, “80 m”) shall be indicated by a supplemental sign. Within built-up areas, it shall be located immediately before the intersection or junction.

Sign 306



Priority Road

It shall be located at the beginning of the priority road and be repeated at every intersection and junction from the right. It shall be located before, at, or after the intersection or junction. It indicates the right-of-way up to the next sign 205 “Yield Right-of-Way!” or sign 206 “Stop! Yield Right-of-Way!” or sign 307 “End of Priority Road”. Outside built-up areas, it shall, up to this point, prohibit parking (sec 12, para (2)) on the roadway.

A supplemental sign



to sign 306 may indicate the course of the priority road. Whoever wishes to follow this course must indicate this clearly and in good time; the direction indicators shall be used for this purpose. Special consideration shall be shown to pedestrians; if necessary, vehicles shall wait.

Sign 307



End of Priority Road

Sign 308



Oncoming Traffic Must Wait

The sign is erected before a narrow roadway.

(3) The built-up area sign

Sign 310



Front shall indicate here starts a built-up area.

Sign 311



Back shall indicate here ends a built-up area.

From here on the provisions applicable to traffic within (outside) built-up areas shall apply. The upper part of sign 311 is white if the village it refers to belongs to the same community as the village just passed through.

(4) Parking:

Sign 314



Parking Area

1. This sign permits parking (sec 12, para (2)).

2. Parking permission can be restricted by a supplemental sign, in particular as regards length of time, types of vehicles, it can be reserved for residents, disabled persons whose ability to walk is severely impaired, and blind persons holding a special parking permit. The exceptions are permitted only if the parking permits are legibly displayed. The supplemental sign “Nur mit Parkschein” denotes an area where parking is subject to possession of a ticket from an automatic parking ticket dispenser. The supplemental sign “gebührenpflichtig” denotes a parking lot for major events where parking is subject to a fee (sec 45, para 1b, no. 1).

3. The beginning of the permitted parking may be indicated by a horizontal white arrow on the sign, its end by the same type of arrow pointing in the opposite direction. If not indicated by sign 432, a parking lot may be indicated by a supplemental sign with a black arrow.

Sign 315



Parking on Sidewalk Permitted

1. This sign permits vehicles with a permissible total weight of up to 2.8 tons to park (sec 12, para (2)) on the sidewalk.

2. The picture in the sign shows how the vehicles are to be parked.

3. Parking permission can be restricted by a supplemental sign particularly as regards length of time, it can be reserved for residents, disabled persons whose ability to walk is severely impaired, and blind persons with a special parking permit. The exceptions are permitted only if the parking permits are legibly displayed. The supplemental sign "*Nur mit Parkschein*" denotes an area where parking is subject to possession of a ticket from an automatic parking ticket dispenser.

4. The beginning of the permitted parking may be indicated by a horizontal white arrow on the sign, its end by the same type of arrow pointing in the opposite direction.

Sign 316



Park and Ride

Sign 317



Parking Area for Hikers

(4a) Pedestrian priority areas:

Sign 325



Beginning of a pedestrian priority area.

Sign 326



End of a pedestrian priority area.

The following rules apply within such area--

1. Pedestrians are permitted to use the full width of the street; children's games are permitted everywhere.
2. Vehicle traffic is permitted at a walking speed only.
3. Drivers of motor vehicles may neither endanger nor impede pedestrians; if necessary, they must wait.
4. Pedestrians may not unduly impede motor vehicle traffic.
5. Parking is prohibited outside the areas specifically marked for this purpose except for the purpose of entering or alighting, loading or unloading.

(5) Autobahns and roads reserved for motor vehicles (*Kraftfahrstrassen*):

Sign 330



Autobahn

This sign is located at the beginning of the entrance to the autobahn

Sign 331



Motor Vehicles Only

This sign is located at the beginning, at every intersection and junction and, if necessary, repeated at other places.

Sign 332



Exit from Autobahn

Sign 334



End of the Autobahn

Sign 333



Exit from Autobahn

Sign 336



End of the Road for Motor Vehicles

The end may also be shown by the same sign, with the indication of a distance below the symbol, such as "800 m".

(6) Markings shall be white except in the cases under section 41, paragraph (4).

1. Lane line:

Sign 340



It shall, as a rule, consist of long lines of equal length spaced at regular intervals.

A lane line may also be drawn as a warning line; its lines are longer than the intervals.

This marking means:

(a) Lane lines may be crossed, if traffic is not endangered thereby.

(b) If, within the width of the roadway, a total of three traffic lanes are so marked for traffic in both directions the left-hand traffic lane shall not be used for overtaking. Whoever wishes to turn left may merge into the center traffic lane.

(c) On roadways for traffic traveling in both directions, with 4 traffic lanes so marked, the two left-hand lanes are reserved exclusively for oncoming traffic; they may, therefore, not be used for passing. The same shall apply on 6-lane roadways to the 3 left-hand traffic lanes.

(d) If outside built-up areas three lanes are so marked in this way for traffic traveling in one direction, vehicles may continue to drive straight in the center lane -even if only occasionally- a vehicle stops or drives to the right of it. The same applies to the second lane from the right on roadways with more than three lanes for one direction marked this way. Trucks with an authorized loaded weight of more than 3.5 tons, as well as trains of vehicles more than 7 m long, may use the left-hand traffic lane, outside built-up areas, only if they merge there for the purpose of turning left.

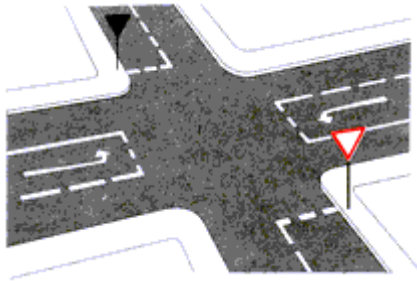
(e) If acceleration lanes (*Beschleunigungsstreifen*) are so marked, vehicles may be driven there at greater speed than in the other lanes.

(f) If lanes, especially on autobahns or roads for motor vehicles only, exit from the continuous roadway; motor vehicles may, from the beginning of a broad lane line, proceed faster at the right side of such line than on the continuous roadway. This does not apply to deceleration lanes (*Verzögerungsstreifen*).

(g) If a safety strip for bicyclists at the right edge of the roadway is so marked other vehicles may drive over the marking if necessary; endangerment of cyclists shall be excluded. The safety strip may be marked with roadway markings (Symbol "Bicyclists", section 39, para (3)).

## 2. Waiting line:

Sign 341



It may be located where sign 205 conveys the order: “Yield Right-of-Way”. It may, furthermore, be located where vehicles turning must allow oncoming traffic to pass. It advises the person waiting, to wait here.

3. Letters and the reproduction of traffic signs painted on the roadway serve to draw attention to a corresponding traffic sign.

### (7) Indications:

Sign 350



Pedestrian Crosswalk

The sign shall be located directly at the marking (sign 293)

Sign 353



One-way Street

It may additionally indicate that the street is one way (sign 220).

Sign 354



Water Protection Area

It cautions drivers of vehicles loaded with materials liable to pollute water to be particularly careful.

Sign 355



Pedestrian Underpass or Overpass

Sign 356



Traffic Directed by School Guard

Sign 357



Dead End

Winter sports may be allowed by means of supplemental signs (following sign 101).

Sign 358



First Aid Station

Sign 359



Auto Repair

Sign 363



Police Station Service

Such signs, with the relevant symbols, may also indicate other things such as telephones, gas stations, camping sites, and trailer parks.

Sign 375



Lodging  
Sign 380

Sign 376



Restaurant  
Sign 381

Sign 377



Refreshment Stand



Recommended Speed



End of recommended speed

It recommends not to exceed the indicated speed even if road, traffic, visibility and weather conditions are favorable.



Town Information Sign

It informs road users of names of towns where no built-up area signs (sign 310) are erected.



Tourist Information

Outside autobahns it refers to tourist places of interest and marks tourism roads, and at autobahns it gives information on landscape and sights.

Sign 388



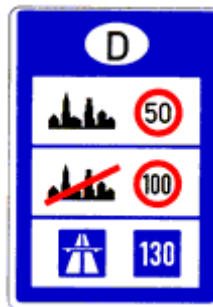
It warns road users with motor vehicles with more than two wheels not to use the shoulder, which is too soft for these vehicles. If, in lieu of the symbol of a passenger car that of a truck is shown, the warning applies only to drivers of vehicles with an authorized total weight of more than 3.5 tons and to tractors.

Sign 392



It indicates a Customs Control.

Sign 393



Information Sign at Border Crossing Points

Sign 394



Within built-up areas, it marks streetlights that are not lighted for the entire night. Rings of the same color are fixed on streetlights poles. The time that the light is turned off may be shown with white letters on the red field.

(8) Route and direction signs:

1. Direction signs:

Sign 401



Federal Highway

Sign 405



Autobahn

Sign 406



Autobahn Junction

Sign 410



European Highway

Number Signs for Federal Highway, Autobahns, Autobahn Junctions, (Autobahn exits, intersections and merging points), European Highway

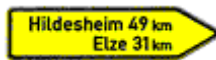
Sign 415



on Federal Highways

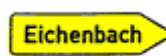
These signs do not grant the right of way.

Sign 418



on other roads with major importance  
for traffic

Sign 419



with minor importance for traffic

A supplemental sign “*Nebenstrecke*” (parallel road) points to a recommended alternate with lighter traffic

Sign 421



for certain kinds of traffic

Sign 430



Direction to Autobahn

Sign 432



Direction to particular places within  
the town and institutions of substantial  
traffic importance.

If, for the purpose of traffic direction, private destinations are indicated, the sign may have a brown background with white symbols.

Sign 434



Direction Marker

It includes all the direction signs at an intersection or junction. The sign may also serve as an preliminary direction sign. Within built-up areas direction signs may have the following design:

Sign 435



Sign 436



Sign 437



Street Name Sign

These are erected in the manner depicted above at intersections and junctions with a high degree of traffic.

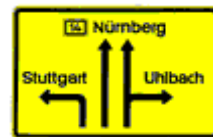
## 2. Preliminary direction signs

Sign 438



advise traffic to merge in good time

Sign 439



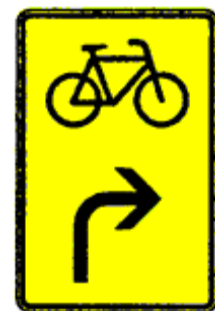
advise traffic to merge in good time

Sign 440



to the Autobahn

Sign 442



for certain kinds of traffic

### 3. Route and direction signs on autobahns--

The “exit” (signs 332 and 333), a autobahn intersection and a autobahn merging point will be indicated by:

- the indicator sign:

Sign 448



on which the symbols indicate:



a autobahn exit



a autobahn intersection or merging point; it also indicates intersections and merging points of autobahns with roads of the secondary system which are constructed similar to autobahns

The number represents the serial number of exits, autobahn intersections and merging points of the autobahn actually used.

An “Autohof” (gas station, garage and rest area etc.) in the immediate vicinity of an autobahn entrance/exit is announced by the indicator sign:

Sign 448.1



The “Autohof” will be indicated once at the right side of the roadway 500 to 1000 m before the indicator sign (sign 448). The services offered by the Autohof will be depicted by symbols on a supplemental sign.

- the preliminary direction sign:

Sign 449



- as well as, at distances of 300 m, 200 m and 100 m by countdown markers like

Sign 450



On the 300 m distance countdown marker for an exit the number of the exit is repeated.

Autobahn intersections and autobahn merging points will be indicated 2,000 m in advance, exits will be indicated 1,000 m in advance by sign 448. The preliminary direction sign 449 is put up 1,000 m and 500 m before autobahn intersections and merging points and 500 before exits.

Sign 453



Distance Sign

It indicates after every exit, junction and intersection, the distances to the centers of the respective destinations. Below the horizontal lines destinations which can be reached via other autobahns than the one actually used are indicated.

#### 4. Detours of traffic when roads are blocked—

Sign 454



It is located at the beginning of the detour and, if necessary, at intersections and junctions along the route of the detour.

Sign 455



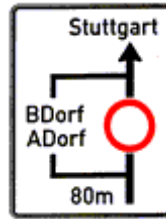
Numbered Detour

The detour may be indicated by

Sign 457



Sign 458



with supplemental signs such as “400 m” or “Direction Stuttgart,” as well as by the bypass routing

If only certain kinds of traffic must be detoured, these shall be indicated on a supplemental sign above the direction sign (sign 454) and above the indicating sign (sign 457), such as “vehicles exceeding 7.5 tons (8.25 US tons) authorized total weight.” The preliminary direction sign and the bypass routing shall in that case show prohibitive signs for the kinds of traffic affected, such as sign 262.

The end of a detour is indicated by

Sign 459



End of Detour

#### 5. Numbered optional detours for autobahn traffic.

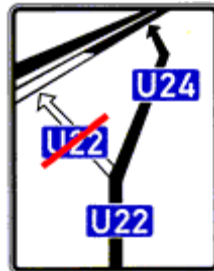
Sign 460



Optional Detour

Whoever must or desires to continue his journey temporarily on other routes shall be guided back to the autobahn by this sign.

Sign 466



Optional Detour Marker

If detoured traffic cannot be guided back to the autobahn at the point shown by sign 460, traffic shall be guided further by this sign via the next optional detour.

Sign 467

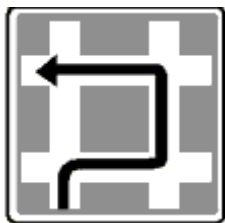


Detour Arrow

Recommended routes on autobahn may be marked by the detour arrow.

6. Other traffic guiding signs:

Sign 468



Difficult Traffic Route

It indicates a route for traffic in connection with the sign “prescribed direction” (signs 209 to 214).

Sign 500



Change of Traffic Lanes

The switching to the opposite roadway or traffic lanes for oncoming traffic shall be shown by such signs. The return of traffic to the normal roadway or lane shall also be indicated in this manner.

## SECTION 43. TRAFFIC DEVICES

(1) Traffic devices are barriers, blocking poles, parking meters, automatic parking ticket dispensers, railings, road block equipment, directing devices, flashing light installations, and traffic lights. Section 39, paragraph (1) applies accordingly.

(2) Control by means of traffic devices shall take precedence over general traffic rules.

(3) Details of traffic devices--

1. Barriers at railroad crossings have red and white stripes.

2. Road block equipment for road construction sites, road damage, scenes of accidents, and other:

Sign 600



Barrier

Sign 605



Pillar Marker  
(warning marker)

Sign 610



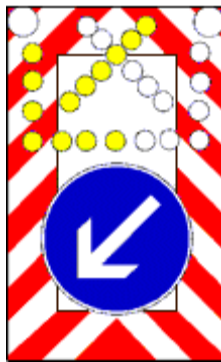
Cone Marker

Sign 615



Movable Barrier Sign

Sign 616



Movable Barrier Sign  
With Flashing Arrow

The barrier sign refers to a work site. As a makeshift or in addition, white-red-white warning flags, or a line of red-white flags or other red-white warning equipment may be used. Warning lights on road block equipment show red if the entire roadway is blocked, otherwise they show yellow light or yellow flashing light. Road block equipment prohibits driving on the blocked portion of the road.

### 3. Guidance devices:

- a. In order to mark the course of the road,

Sign 620



Guide Post (left)

Sign 620



Guide Post (right)

may be located on the roadsides, generally, at 50 m intervals.

- b. At danger spots, guiding signs with hatch stripes or guiding devices may be erected such as

Sign 625



Direction sign at curves

Sign 630



Parking Warning Sign

(4) For the marking of vehicles and trailers which stop on the traffic lane within built-up areas in accordance with section 17, paragraph (4), second and third sentence, officially examined parking warning signs may be used.

### **PART III**

## **IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE FINES (*BUSSGELD*) REGULATIONS, AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 44. JURISDICTION OVER THE SUBJECT MATTER**

(1) Unless otherwise stated, the road traffic authorities are responsible for the implementation of this Ordinance; these are either the lower administrative authorities in charge pursuant to *Land* legislation or the authorities to whom, under *Land* legislation, the functions of the road traffic authorities have been assigned. The highest responsible *Land* authorities and the higher administrative authorities may issue directives to these authorities including directives in individual cases, or may themselves take the required measures. Pursuant to *Land* legislation the competence of the highest *Land* authorities and of the higher administrative authorities may, in individual cases or in general, be delegated to another authority.

(2) The police shall be authorized to regulate the traffic by means of signals and instructions (sec 36) and by operating traffic lights. To maintain the safety or order of road traffic in cases of danger in delay the police may take action in lieu of the otherwise responsible authorities and may take preliminary measures; in such a case the police shall then determine the means necessary to ensure safety and to control traffic.

(3) Permission under section 29, paragraph (2), and section 30, paragraph (2), shall be granted by the road traffic authority; by the higher administrative authority if the event extends beyond the area of responsibility of a road traffic authority; and by the highest *Land* authority if the event extends beyond the administrative district of the higher administrative authority. If the event affects several *Länder*, the highest *Land* authority of the *Land* in which the event starts shall be responsible. Under the provisions of *Land* legislation, the powers of the highest *Land* authorities and of the higher administrative authorities may, in an individual case, or generally, be delegated to another authority.

(3a) Permission pursuant to section 29, paragraph (3) shall be given by the road traffic authority, otherwise by the higher administrative authority which, by way of exception, permits deviations from measurements, axle loads, authorized total weight and field of vision of the vehicle unless a hearing takes place; it will also be competent for exceptions pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 2 and 5 within the framework of such a permission. The same applies if another authority performs these functions of the higher administrative authority.

(4) Agreements concerning the use of roads by military traffic shall be concluded by the Federal Armed Forces or the Forces of the non-German states that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, with the highest *Land* authority or the authority nominated by it.

(5) Where no agreements or special arrangements for Foreign Forces exist, the higher administrative authorities or the authorities determined by *Land* legislation shall grant permission for the excess use of roads by the Federal Armed Forces or by the Forces of the non-German states that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty; they shall also grant permission for the excess use of roads by the Federal Frontier Guard, the Police, and the Disaster Services.

### **SECTION 45. TRAFFIC SIGNS AND TRAFFIC DEVICES**

(1) The road traffic authorities may restrict or prohibit the use of certain roads or stretches of roads for safety or traffic control reasons and may reroute the traffic. They are authorized to take the same measures:

1. To carry out road construction work,
2. To prevent considerable damage to the road,
3. To protect the residential population from noise and exhaust fumes,
4. To protect waters and mineral springs,
5. Regarding the measures required to maintain public safety as well as,

6. To investigate accidents, the conduct in traffic, and the traffic flow as well as to test measures planned to improve road traffic safety or traffic control.

(1a) They shall have the same right:

1. In spas and climatic health resorts,
2. In high altitude health resorts,
3. In recreational resorts of special importance,
4. In scenic areas and localities predominantly serving the recreation of the population,
- 4a. With regard to locally limited measures for the preservation of species and biotopes,

4b. With regard to locally and timely limited measures for the protection of cultural events which take place outside the road area and which are considerably disturbed by traffic, in particular by its noise.

5. In the vicinity of hospitals and sanitariums, as well as,
6. In the immediate vicinity of recreational homes outside built-up areas

if this prevents nuisance by motor vehicles which cannot be avoided in any other manner.

(1b) The road traffic authorities will also issue the necessary orders:

1. In connection with the setting up of parking lots subject to a fee used for major events,
2. In connection with the signposting of parking possibilities for disabled persons whose ability to walk is severely impaired, for blind persons, and for residents,
3. To signpost pedestrian zones and pedestrian priority areas,
4. To maintain safety and order in these areas as well as,
5. To protect the population from noise and exhaust fumes or to promote a structured urban development.

The road traffic authorities shall issue orders for the establishment of parking facilities for residents, for the signposting of pedestrian zones, pedestrian priority zones and measures to protect the population from noise and exhaust fumes or to promote a structured urban development with the consent of the local authority.

(1c) In agreement with the local communities, the road traffic authorities shall also order the establishment of zones with 30 km/h maximum speed limit within built-up areas, in particular in residential areas and areas with high pedestrian and bicycle traffic and where roads need to be crossed frequently. The ordering of such zones may neither affect roads of regional traffic (federal highways, state roads and district roads) nor other priority roads (sign 306). It may only comprise roads with intersections or junctions without traffic lights, without traffic lane markings (sign 295), lane lines (sign 340) and bicycle paths which must be used by cyclists (sign 237, 240, 241 or sign 295 in connection with sign 237). At intersections and junctions within such zones the priority rule pursuant to section 8, paragraph (1) sentence 1 ("traffic approaching from the right has the right-of-way"). In deviation from sentence 3, the zones with 30 km/h speed limit with traffic lights which were established prior to 1 November 2000 shall remain in effect for the protection of pedestrians.

(1d) For central urban areas with a high concentration of pedestrians which are primarily laid out for pedestrians (traffic-reduced shopping areas), zones with speed limits of less than 30 km/h may be determined.

(1e) Based on the statutory orders (smog-ordinances) issued by the *Land* governments pursuant to section 40 of the Federal Clean Air Act the road traffic authorities will finally determine where and what traffic signs and traffic devices are to be set up in case of smog.

(2) The road construction authorities may, for the purpose of executing road construction work and for the prevention of extraordinary damage to the road resulting from its state of repair (subject to other measures by the road traffic authorities) order prohibitions and restrictions of traffic, divert traffic, and direct it by markings and guiding devices. A road construction authority within the meaning of this Ordinance shall be that authority which exercises the functions of the agency responsible for road repair and maintenance in accordance with statutory provisions. For railroad crossings of public service railroads, only the railroad agencies may prescribe a certain conduct by road users by means of flashing lights or traffic lights, by red and white striped barriers, or by the erection of the warning cross. All directives and prohibitions shall be ordered by signs and traffic devices pursuant to this Ordinance.

(3) In all other respects, the road traffic authorities shall determine where and what traffic signs and traffic devices are to be erected and removed, and in the case of street name signs, only where these are to be erected in the manner shown by sign 437. The road construction authorities shall (subject to other orders by the road traffic authorities) determine the type, method of installation and the layout as for example oversize, illumination; whether guideposts are to be erected shall be determined by them alone. They may also (subject to other measures by the road traffic authorities) erect warning signs indicating danger if the safety of traffic is endangered by the condition of the road.

(3a) The road traffic authority will issue the order for the erection of sign 386 only in agreement with the highest road traffic authority of the *Land* or the authority appointed by it for such purpose. The signs will be erected by the competent road construction authority.

(4) The authorities referred to may regulate and direct traffic only by traffic signs and traffic devices; in the cases of paragraph (1), second sentence, no. 5, and of paragraph (1d), however, also by regulations announced by radio, television, daily press or other manner if the setting up of traffic signs and devices is not possible according to the existing circumstances.

(5) The agency responsible for road repair and maintenance shall be obliged to procure, erect, maintain, and remove the traffic signs and traffic devices and to operate them including illumination; otherwise the owner of the road shall be responsible. This shall also apply to the illumination of pedestrian crossings ordered by the road traffic authority.

(6) Before the beginning of work affecting road traffic, the contractors, -the building contractors by submitting a plan of traffic signs,- must obtain orders from the competent authority pursuant to paragraphs (1) to (3) as to how their work sites are to be blocked off and marked, whether and how traffic, also in the event of a partial blocking of the road, is to be restricted, directed, and controlled, further-more, whether and how they have to mark blocked roads and detours. They must comply with these orders and must operate traffic lights.

(7) If roads are marked as priority roads or as a traffic detour, construction measures that narrow the roadway shall require permission from the road traffic authority; excepted are routine road maintenance, as well as emergency measures. The permission shall be deemed to have been granted if the authority has not responded to the application within 1 week of its receipt.

(8) Within built-up areas, the road traffic authorities may increase the permissible maximum speed on certain roads by sign 274. Outside built-up areas they may, with the approval of the highest competent *Land* authorities, increase the authorized maximum speed by sign 274 pursuant to section 3, paragraph (3,) no. 2c to 120 km per hour.

(9) Traffic signs and traffic devices shall only be installed where this is strictly necessary due to the special circumstances. Aside from the order to establish zones with 30 km/h maximum speed pursuant to paragraph (1c) or zone speed limits pursuant to paragraph (1d), restrictions and prohibitions affecting moving traffic in particular may only be ordered if, due to the special local circumstances, a dangerous situation exists which considerably exceeds the general risk of impairment of the legal interests stated in the above paragraphs. Danger signs may only be installed at locations where it is absolutely necessary for traffic safety because even an attentive person participating in traffic cannot or not in time recognize the danger and cannot be expected to foresee it.

## **SECTION 46. GRANTING OF EXCEPTIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS**

(1) The road traffic authorities may, in specific individual cases, or generally, grant exceptions for specific applicants:

1. From the regulations concerning the use of roads (sec 2).

2. From the prohibition of entering a autobahn or a road reserved for motor vehicles or of using on them vehicles not licensed therefor (sec 18, para (1), (10)).
3. From the parking and stopping prohibitions (sec 12, para (4)).
4. From the prohibition of parking in front of, or opposite, entrances or exits from real estate (sec 12, para (3)3).
- 4a. From the regulations to stop at parking meters only while the meter is in operation, at automatic parking ticket dispensers only if in possession of a parking ticket (sec 13, para 1).
- 4b. From the regulations to park within a zone where stopping is prohibited (signs 290 and 292) during the prescribed time (sec 13, para 2).
- 4c. From the regulations concerning the towing of vehicles (sec 15a).
5. From the regulations concerning the height, length, and width of vehicles and loads (sec 18, para (1) second sentence; sec 22, paras (2) to (4)).
- 5a. From the prohibition of the unauthorized taking along of persons (sec 21).
- 5b. From the regulations concerning the fastening of safety belts and the wearing of protective helmets (sec 21a).
6. From the prohibition of leading animals by motor vehicles and animals other than dogs by bicycles (sec 28, para (1), sentences 3 and 4).
7. From the prohibition of driving on Sundays (sec 30, para (3)).
8. From the prohibition of bringing obstacles on the roads (sec 32, para (1)).
9. From the prohibitions of using loudspeakers or peddling goods or services on the road (sec 33, para (1), no.1 and no. 2).
10. From the prohibition of advertising and propagandizing in connection with traffic signs (sec 33, para (2), sentence 2) but only with regard to the surface of illuminated posts to which signs of stops of public transportation are affixed.
11. From the prohibitions or restrictions which have been issued by regulatory signs (sec 41), guiding signs (sec 42), traffic devices (sec 43, paras (1) and (3)), or orders (sec 45, para (4)).
12. From the prohibition to park during nighttime and on Sundays (sec 12, para (3a)).

Exceptions from the prohibition to transport passengers on the loading platform (sec 21, para (2)) can be granted for the area of responsibility of the Federal Armed Forces, the international headquarters established on the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Federal Border Guard, the German Postal Services by their agencies, for the disaster services by the competent *Länder* authorities. The same applies to the regulation to wear the required safety belts or protective helmets (sec 21a).

(2) The highest responsible *Land* authorities or the authorities nominated pursuant to *Land* law may grant exceptions from all the provisions of this Ordinance for specific individual cases, or generally, for specific applicants. Beyond that, they may permit exceptions from the prohibition to drive on Sundays (sec 30, para (3)) for certain roads or portions of roads as far as they become necessary within the framework of a different regulation of holidays in the *Länder* (sec 30, para (4)). If the effect of an exception extends beyond one *Land* and if a uniform decision is required, the Federal Minister of Transport shall be competent; this shall not apply to exceptions from the prohibition of racing events (sec 29, para (1)).

(3) Exceptions and authorizations may be granted with the reservation of revocation and with auxiliary provisions (conditions, time limits, requirements). If necessary, the responsible authority may demand the submission of an expert's opinion at the applicant's expense. Any pertinent orders shall be carried in the vehicle and produced to authorized persons at their request. In case of permissions pursuant to section 29, paragraph (3), it is sufficient when copied notifications are carried along.

(4) Exceptions and permissions by the competent authority shall be effective within the scope of application of this Ordinance as far as they do not refer to another scope of application.

## **SECTION 47. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**

(1) The permission pursuant to section 29, paragraph (2), and section 30, paragraph (2), for an event that starts abroad shall be granted by the authority which has jurisdictional power pursuant to section 44, paragraph (3) and is located in the area of the border crossing point. This authority shall also have jurisdiction if any other traffic requiring authorization or permission starts abroad. The permission pursuant to section 29, paragraph (3), shall be granted by the road traffic authority in whose district the traffic requiring approval begins, or by the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, his place of business or branch office.

(2) Responsible for the granting of exemption permits shall be--

1. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 2 concerning an exception from section 18, paragraph (1), the road traffic authority in whose district the vehicles will enter the autobahn or motorway. However, if a permission pursuant to section 29, paragraph (3) or an exceptional permission pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 5 is granted, the administrative authority issuing this regulation shall be responsible.

2. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 4a, for persons of small stature, as well as pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 4a and 4b for handless persons the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, also for the areas outside their district.

3. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 4c, the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, his place of business or branch office.

4. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 5, the road traffic authority in whose district the traffic requiring approval begins, or the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, his place of business or branch office.

5. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 5b the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, also for the areas which are outside its district.

6. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 7, the road traffic authority in whose district the cargo is loaded or the road traffic authority in whose district the applicant has his residence, his place of business or branch office. They shall also be responsible to permit the travel of the unloaded vehicle to the place of loading; further, if no use is made of the exceptional permission in their *Land* or if no prohibition exists there.

7. Pursuant to section 46, paragraph (1), no. 11 the road traffic authority in whose district the prohibitions, restrictions and orders have been issued, however, for disabled persons whose ability to walk is severely impaired and blind persons any road traffic authority also for such measures which are ordered outside its district.

8. In all other cases the road traffic authority in whose district use shall be made of the exceptional permission.

(3) The authorization for abnormal use of roads by the Federal Armed Forces, the Forces referred to in section 35, paragraph (5), the Federal Frontier Guard, the Police, and the Service for the Protection of the Population in Catastrophes shall be granted by the higher administrative authority or the agency designated according to *Land* law in whose district the traffic requiring approval begins.

## **SECTION 48. ROAD SAFETY TRAINING**

Any person who does not observe traffic regulations shall, on receipt of a summons from the road traffic authority or from an official delegated by it, be obliged to take part in training concerning conduct in road traffic.

## **SECTION 49. TRAFFIC OFFENSES**

(1) A person commits an administrative offense (*Ordnungswidrigkeit*) within the meaning of section 24 of the Road Traffic Law, who willfully, or negligently, violates a regulation concerning--

1. General conduct in road traffic pursuant to section 1, paragraph (2).

2. Use of roads by vehicles pursuant to section 2.
3. Speed pursuant to section 3.
4. Distance between vehicles pursuant to section 4.
5. Passing pursuant to section 5, paragraphs (1) - (4a), paragraph (5), second sentence, paragraph (6) or (7).
6. Driving past pursuant to section 6.
7. Changing of driving lanes pursuant to section 7, paragraph (5).
8. Right-of-way pursuant to section 8.
9. Turning, turning around, or backing pursuant to section 9, paragraphs (1), (2), sentence 1, 4 or 5, paragraphs (3) to (5).
- 9a. Conduct when entering a traffic circle or driving in a traffic circle pursuant to paragraph 9a.
10. Entering or pulling away pursuant to section 10.
11. The conduct in special traffic situations pursuant to section 11, paragraph (1) or (2).
12. Stopping or parking pursuant to section 12, paragraphs (1), (1a), (3), (3a), sentence 1, paragraph (3b), sentence 1, paragraph (4); sentence 1, second half of sentence 2, sentence 3 or 5, or paragraphs (4a) to (6).
13. Parking meters, parking tickets, or parking disks pursuant to section 13, paragraph (1) or (2).
14. Duty to exercise care when entering and alighting pursuant to section 14.
15. Vehicles immobilized on the road pursuant to section 15.
- 15a. Towing of vehicles pursuant to section 15a.
16. Warning signals pursuant to section 16.
17. Lighting and leaving vehicles on the road without illumination pursuant to section 17.
18. Use of autobahns and roads reserved for motor vehicles only pursuant to section 18, paragraphs (1) through (3), paragraph (5), sentence 2, or paragraphs (6) through (10).
19. Conduct
  - a. At railroad crossings pursuant to section 19.
  - b. At stops of public means of transportation and school buses pursuant to section 20.
20. Transportation of passengers pursuant to section 21, paragraphs (1), (1a), paragraph (2) or (3).
  - 20a. The obligation to fasten seat belts pursuant to section 21a, paragraph (1), sentence 1, except for motor buses with a total authorized weight over 3.5 tons, or the wearing of protective helmets pursuant to section 21a, paragraph (2).
21. Load pursuant to section 22.
22. Other duties of a vehicle operator pursuant to section 23.
23. Use of invalid chairs or wheelchairs other than those mentioned in section 24, paragraph (1), pursuant to section 24, paragraph (2).

#### 24. Conduct

- a. As a pedestrian pursuant to section 25, paragraphs (1) through (4).
- b. At pedestrian crosswalks pursuant to section 26.
- c. On bridges pursuant to section 27, paragraph (6).

25. Environmental protection pursuant to section 30, paragraph (1) or (2), or the prohibition of driving on Sundays pursuant to section 30, paragraph (3), sentence 1 or 2, number 4, sentence 2.

26. Sports or games pursuant to section 31.

27. Causing, removing, or marking of conditions that obstruct or endanger traffic or the effective covering of dangerous equipment pursuant to section 32.

28. Interference with traffic pursuant to section 33.

29. The conduct after a traffic accident pursuant to section 34, paragraph (1), no. 1, no. 2, no. 5a, b or no. 6b, as far as in the latter case he will wait for a period of time which is reasonable under the circumstances, but without leaving behind at the scene of accident his name and address, - or pursuant to section 34, paragraph (3).

(2) A person likewise commits an administrative offense (*Ordnungswidrigkeit*) within the meaning of section 24 of the Road Traffic Law who willfully or negligently --

1. As the person in charge of a convoy, contrary to section 27, paragraph (5), does not ensure that the regulations applicable to convoys are observed.

1a. Contrary to section 27, paragraph (2) breaks a convoy of vehicles.

2. As the person in charge of a group of children or of juvenile persons, contrary to section 27, paragraph (1), sentence 4, does not cause them to use the sidewalk.

3. As the owner of animals or as a person otherwise responsible for animals, violates a regulation under section 28, paragraph (1) or (2), sentence 2.

4. As a rider, a person in charge of horses, a driver or a person in charge of cattle, contrary to section 28, paragraph (2), violates a traffic rule or instruction uniformly applying to all traffic.

5. As a motor vehicle operator, participates in a race contrary to section 29, paragraph (1).

6. Contrary to section 29, paragraph (2), sentence 1, organizes an event, or as the organizer, contrary to section 29, paragraph (2), sentence 3 does not ensure that the pertinent traffic regulations or requirements are observed.

7. Contrary to section 29, paragraph (3), drives a vehicle or towing vehicles with trailer.

(3) A person also commits an administrative offense (*Ordnungswidrigkeit*) within the meaning of section 24 of the Road Traffic Law, who willfully or negligently --

1. Contrary to section 36, paragraphs (1) to (4) fails to observe a signal or instruction, or contrary to paragraph (5), sentence 4, fails to observe a stop order or a direction from a police officer.

2. Violates a provision of section 37, on conduct at changing light signals, constant light signals or when making a right turn at a green arrow.

3. Contrary to section 38, paragraph (1), paragraph (2) or (3), sentence 3, uses a blue flashing light together with the police-type siren or alone, or a yellow flashing light, or, contrary to section 38, paragraph (1), sentence 2, does not clear the roadway immediately.

4. Contrary to section 41, does not observe an instruction given by a regulatory sign.

5. Contrary to section 42, fails to observe a regulation denoted by the supplemental signs to signs 306, 314, 315, or by the signs 315, 325, or 340.

6. Contrary to section 43, paragraphs (2) and (3), number 2 drives on parts of a road closed by roadblock equipment.

7. Violates a regulation prohibiting or restricting traffic officially announced in accordance with section 45, paragraph (4), second half of sentence.

(4) A person commits an administrative offense (*Ordnungswidrigkeit*) within the meaning of section 24 of the Road Traffic Law who willfully or negligently--

1. Acts contrary to the prohibition of section 35, paragraph (6), sentence 1, 2 or 3 concerning the cleaning of sidewalks.

1a. Contrary to section 35, paragraph (6), sentence 4, does not wear conspicuous warning clothing.

2. Contrary to section 35, paragraph (8), exercises special rights without duly considering public safety and order.

3. Contrary to section 45, paragraph (6), starts work without having previously obtained instructions, fails to observe these instructions, or does not operate traffic lights.

4. Contrary to section 46, paragraph (3), first sentence, does not observe an executable condition of the exceptional permission or authorization.

5. Contrary to section 46, paragraph (3), sentence 3, does not carry pertinent notifications in the vehicle or does not produce them on request.

6. Contrary to section 48, does not follow a summons to participate in traffic safety training.

7. Contrary to section 50 operates a motor vehicle or rides a bicycle on the Isle of Helgoland.

## **SECTION 50. SPECIAL REGULATION FOR THE ISLE OF HELGOLAND**

Operation of vehicles and bicycles is prohibited on the Isle of Helgoland.

## **SECTION 51. SPECIAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING COSTS**

The costs for sign 386, in deviation of section 5b, paragraph (1) of the Road Traffic Law shall bear whoever requests that the sign be put up.

## **SECTION 52. COMPENSATION FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC TRAFFIC AREAS**

This ordinance is not in conflict with the levying of fees for use of traffic areas in which no common use exists, on the basis of regulations other than those according to road traffic law.

## **SECTION 53. ENTRY INTO FORCE**

(1) This Ordinance shall enter into force 1 March 1971.

(2) The Road Traffic Ordinance dated 13 November 1937 (*Reich Law Gazette* I, p. 1179) in the version of the promulgation of 29 March 1956 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 271, p. 327) with the amendments to the Ordinance dated 25 July 1957 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 780), dated 7 July 1960 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 485), dated 29 December 1960 (Federal Law Gazette 1961 I, p. 8), and dated 30 April 1964 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 305) shall become ineffective on the same date.

(3) Sign 226 of the Road Traffic Ordinance of 16 November 1970 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1565, 1971 I, p. 38) in the version of the Ordinance of 28 April 1982 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 564) shall have the meaning of sign 224 in the version of this Ordinance until 31 December 1995.

(4) The signs 274, 278, 307, 314, 380, 385 and the former barriers with diagonal hatching shall further keep their meaning which they had according to the version of this Ordinance valid before 1 October 1988, at least until 31 December 1998. Pedestrian zones (signs 242/243) may further be marked by sign 241 at least until 31 December 1998. Picture 291 shall keep the meaning which it had according to the version of this Ordinance valid before 1 October 1988 at the latest until 30 April 1989.

(5) The supplemental sign with the words “*bei Nässe*” (in case of wet roads) may be used until 31 December 1988.

(6) Protective helmets of a type not officially approved may no longer be used after 1 January 1990.

(7) Previous signs 290 and 292 will maintain the meaning they had pursuant to the version of the Road Traffic Ordinance effective prior to 1 January 1990, until 31 December 1999 at the latest.

(8) Previous signs 448 and 450 (300 m distance count-down marker) at autobahn exits may be used until 31. December 1995.

(9) Traffic signs designed in compliance with the version of this ordinance which was in effect until 1 July 1992 shall still be valid after that date. However, from 1 July 1992 only traffic signs and traffic devices showing the new symbols may be placed and erected.

(10) Marking of the beginning, course, and end of a stretch of road to which a prohibition applies by supplemental signs (sec 41, para 2, no. 8, letter c, sentence 3 in the version effective until 30 June 1992) will remain in effect until 30 June 1994.

(11) Marking of the beginning, the course, and the end of a stretch where parking is allowed by signs 314 or 315 (sec 42, para 4) by supplemental signs shall remain in effect until 30 June 1994.

(12) Red and yellow arrows on traffic lights pursuant to section 37, paragraph (2), number 1 in the version effective until 30 June 1992 will remain effective until 31 December 2005.

(13) Previous signs 229 shall keep the meaning they had pursuant to the version of the Road Traffic Ordinance effective prior to 1 March 1994 until 31 December 1994 at the latest.

(14) Previous signs 368 which had already been placed and erected by the time the deletion of the sign became effective, shall remain effective until 31 December 2002.

(15) Indicator signs for an “Autohof” which were ordered and erected based on the Traffic Gazette announcement of 24 October 1994 (Traffic Gazette 1994, page 699) before sign 448.1 came into effect shall remain in effect until 31 December 2005.